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# The Playground

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SEPTEMBER, 1925

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Asheville's Mayor Believes in Recreation

Will You Be There?

Asheville Recreation Congress, October 5-10, 1925

Widespread Interest in Providing More Playing Fields in Great Britain

Safety and Recreation

Leisure and Labor

Neighborhood Organization

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VOLUME XIX. NO. 6

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# The Playground

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# Health Joy Love Happiness



are magic words in the life of the child. There must inevitably come later much that is serious, sorrowful, and sordid—let us then keep childhood happy, playful, and beautiful.

There is no other one thing that offers so much of the elements of rapturous abandon to the child spirit of play and joy—to the child world of mimicry and make-believe—to the power of self-expression, as does music.

Put *music* into the daily lives of your children, let them sing with it, dance with it, imagine stories as suggested by it, and listen to its inspiring messages of beautifully interpreted masterpieces.

There is one way, and one way only, by which all this may be made available to all the children everywhere, at any time, in any place, and that is by means of the Victrola and the splendid collection of Victor records selected by one who knows and loves children, and recorded especially for children by our finely trained artists.



Educational Department  
**Victor Talking Machine Company**  
Camden, New Jersey



LOOKING ACROSS TO THE BLUE RIDGE NEAR ASHEVILLE, N. C., WHERE THE RECREATION CONGRESS WILL BE HELD



# The Playground

VOL. XIX, No. 6

SEPTEMBER, 1925

## The World at Play

**Lions Urge Play Centers.**—The Lions' International at their recent meeting endorsed the work of the Playground and Recreation Association of America and suggested that Lions' Clubs serve the handicapped children in their communities "by urging city councils and school boards to establish playgrounds and recreation centers."

**Prominent Athlete Affirms Moral Values of Play.**—Melvin W. Sheppard, one of America's greatest athletes, for a number of years a field worker of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, has written a series of articles which have been published in the *Sport Story Magazine*, telling of his experiences as an athlete. He writes, "It was one of the most pathetic things I have ever seen to find full grown men who apparently had never learned to play, and it was one of the most interesting works I was ever engaged in when I set about to solve the problem of how to teach them to play."

Mel Sheppard in writing of his work with the Playground and Recreation Association of America suggests, "Every situation I encountered brought out some new and wonderful phase of the remarkable remedy for evils—athletics. It is small wonder then that, with all this evidence constantly before my eyes, I became completely dominated with the idea of sports for all. I have seen playgrounds spring from vacant lots used heretofore only for the disposal of refuse. I have seen small playgrounds opened with no more than a volley ball and net or baseball and bat, and I have seen whole families tasting for the first time the wonder of the spirit of play."

"I could cite any number of personal experiences in which I have seen the introduction of athletics perform miracles."

**What It Meant to Her.**—A Music Festival was held recently in a New England city, giving an opportunity for varied musical expression through its concerts and unique program.

The day following the final sessions a little old

Italian woman came to the office of the director and with all her powers of expression told how happy it all had made her. She said in Italy she had played a harp—and when she came to America she had brought it with her, but here she had had no chance to play it. During the festival she had been given a place in an orchestra—and she had played and had been so happy, happier than at any time since she had left the Homeland. She then said she understood not enough money had come in to pay the expenses and that she wanted to help and she handed the director a dollar.

**Some Spirit!**—There is a boy, Frank Fox by name, in a State institution in New York, who has been a cripple for some time. One leg is shorter than the other and he wears a brace, but that doesn't dampen his zeal for the Boys' Athletic Badge Test. He has already qualified in the pull-up, rope climb, standing broad jump, baseball throw for accuracy and baseball throw for distance. Unfortunately he cannot enter the 60-yard dash and therefore cannot qualify in this event, but his athletic spirit is 100% perfect.

**Worth a Fortune.**—*Musical America* tells of an aged recluse in Peoria, Illinois, who recently left her \$60,000 estate to Paul Ash, jazz symphony bandsman, whom she had never seen. A friend brought a portable radio set to her cabin, and she heard Mr. Ash conduct from a Chicago station. A few days later she died, and on her deathbed directed that, since she had no relatives, her estate should be a reward for the greatest happiness she ever had.

**Expansion of Training Courses at Chicago Normal School.**—A course of specialized training for playground leadership and administration is to be given by the Chicago Normal School. In December of 1925 entrance examinations will be held for those who hold a high school certificate or who have less than a college degree. It is now too late for anyone to apply to enter the course

this fall who has not taken the entrance examination previously unless such person holds a college degree. Students from outside of Chicago taking this course pay a fee of \$200 a year. The subjects covered during the three-year course are:

Physiology; English—Composition; Kindergarten; Play and Education; Psychology; First Aid; Music; Drama; Publicity Methods; Child Psychology; Leadership Organization; Program Content; Recreational Gymnastics; Pageantry; Social Problems; Hygiene; Statistical Methods; Education; Games, Graphic Art; Playground History and Theory; Oral Expression; Athletics; Folk Dancing; Dancing; Playground Management; Playground Craft Work; Elementary Sociology; Cadeting; Music in Playground; Program Building; Swimming; Practice and Coaching of Games and Athletics.

**Say It in Rhyme.**—The Recreation Department of Sacramento, California, has sent out various rhymes emphasizing good conduct in play, urging the children to memorize the lines. Charles H. English, of Chicago, has found one or two verses useful in setting the playground ideals before his staff.

**School Extension Recreation Service in Salt Lake City.**—In Salt Lake City the elementary Junior and Senior High Schools are increasingly being equipped for education extension recreation service. Service rooms with a stage are being put in all the new elementary schools; service rooms, auditorium and gymnasias in the new Junior High Schools; and auditorium, gymnasium and a large acreage for major and minor sports in all Senior High Schools.

**Good Camp Advertising.**—"Take the whole family to camp" is the slogan of the municipal camp placards which are being carried by all the municipal railway street cars in San Francisco. A large attendance is expected at the ever-popular municipal camp maintained by the Recreation Department at the Hetchy Hetchy site.

**Are You Eligible to the Honorable and Sublime Order of Fishes?**—Many boys and girls on the Cleveland playgrounds are proud possessors of red, white and blue "Ima Fish" buttons—an outward indication of the fact that they are able to swim ten strokes. Great preparations are being made by the city and board of education swimming teachers, the playground children and *The Cleveland Plain-Dealer* for the Ima

Fish Carnival, when the city bathing beaches will be roped off for a series of contests for hundreds of boys and girls from city and school playgrounds. Competitors will be boys and girls who have learned to swim ten strokes this summer under school and city playground swimming teachers. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded by *The Plain-Dealer* for a number of events, including distance and speed swimming, fancy swimming and diving. Schools of fishes from the various playgrounds, with such names as Gar Pike, Carp, Red Fin, White Mullet, Pacific Smelt and Mackerel Shark are all set for the contests.

**Opening Crowds.**—Among the reports of "opening" days on summer playgrounds, special interest attaches to Albany, New York, and Chicopee, Massachusetts, where noticeable increase of attendance over last year is reported. Last year Chicopee had an average daily attendance of 3500. On the opening day in 1925 10,000 children flocked to the grounds, flooding the swings, seesaws, baseball and volley ball courts and other play apparatus.

Six thousand appeared on Albany's playgrounds the first day, long lines of children waiting for more than an hour before the joyous signal was given.

**A Children's Art Contest in St. Paul.**—An art contest for children, conducted this spring in the St. Paul Public Library, was participated in by more than 300 children. The schools cooperated and work of a high order was presented. Sixty of the children received prizes of attractive art books and framed and unframed pictures.

**A Better Cities Contest.**—Twenty Wisconsin cities have entered a "better cities contest" and they will be judged in relation to public education, health, location, playgrounds, libraries, parks, and other activities which make the life of the community worth while.

**An Auditorium and Field House for University of Nebraska.**—A large auditorium and field house costing \$250,000 is to be erected at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, financed entirely by the athletic board of the university.

**Public Benefactors.**—Colonel Edward A. Deeds of Dayton, Ohio, an officer of the General Motors Corporation and a music-lover and bene-

factor of education has recently given an athletic field valued at \$1,000,000 to Dennison University. Mrs. Deeds has lately been appointed head of the American opera activities of the National Federation of Music Clubs for a term of two years.

**A Jackstone Tournament in Glenn Falls, N. Y.**—A Jackstone Tournament held throughout the schools of Glens Falls, New York, under the auspices of the Zonta Club, developed enthusiastic competition. So interested was a visiting recreation worker that she contributed a cup. This was won by a little girl from the Parochial School. The cup can be held permanently by the school that wins it three years.

**Terre Haute Has New Golf Course and Stadium.**—The new 18-hole public golf course in Rea Park, Terre Haute, is part of the park area given to the city by Mr. Rea, who left \$100,000 in his will for the purpose. Since that time Mrs. Rea has built a \$43,000 Club House with excellent facilities and presented it to the city. The golf course is made self-supporting by a green fee charge of 25c. In the first two months after opening this season the receipts amounted to \$3000.

Terre Haute expended last year approximately \$500,000 for park and recreation areas; a bond issue for \$400,000 built the new municipal stadium which will hold 20,000 or more people. It is open to the use of the public provided no charges are made.

**More Golf for Flint, Michigan.**—The dedication of Flint's second municipal golf course recently took place in Mott Park. The celebration included addresses by the Mayor, the Superintendent of the Park Board, and the Vice-President of the Buick Motor Company. The mayor started play on the 9-hole layout by sending the first ball down the fairway. More than 100 golfers teed off after the dedication.

**Bowling Popular among Women Store Employees in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.**—During the past year one of the objectives of the Playground and Recreation Association of Wyoming Valley at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., has been to develop athletic, recreation and special activities in the State Employees' Association of that city. Their year's report shows 3202 employees participating in activities and 1,355 games played. A noteworthy feature is in the increase of girls' bowling over

the previous year. In 1923 there was one employees' league with four teams and thirty-two registered bowlers. The past year showed four leagues with twenty-two teams and 176 registered bowlers. Four hundred and fourteen games were bowled during the year.

**Portchester's Special Days.**—Special Event Fridays, promoted by the Recreation Commission and Community Service of Portchester, New York, have been a great success. The first, a Pet and Doll Show, gave evidence of the "up-to-the-minuteness" of some of the playground members when there appeared on the ground a baby doll in a cardboard box bearing the name "Adam" above it, with a picture of a monkey below. Guinea pig litters, one week old, kittens with their mother, carried in perforated baskets, a turkey and a young duck all came in for their share of blue ribbons.

The next Friday was Stunt and Folk Dance Day. Courtesy transportation made it possible to bring all three playgrounds together in the large Athletic Field at Recreation Park. More than 300 attended and took part in the athletic games, folk dances, and play demonstration, which were the order of the day. An attractive feature was an original outdoor sketch put on by four girls from one of the playgrounds. Two of the girls appeared in the guise of 1925 girls, dressed in the latest style, and carried on a humorous conversation. The other two, costumed in old-fashioned clothes, took the part of girls of 1825 and danced the Minuet.

**Fourth of July in New Mexico.**—Most of the celebrations in New Mexico last three days, people coming from even a hundred miles. In some sections there are more Indians and Mexicans in attendance than Anglo-Saxons, with a few Chinese on the edges. George W. Braden writes of last Fourth: "The day is free for all, for here you know everybody and everybody here knows you. The old-fashioned square dances are largely used—not exclusively, however, and Pa and Ma and Uncle Bill and Aunt Mary and even the grandparents can swing and step as well as the young folks. At San Marciel—population about 1000—on the Santa Fe almost equal distance from El Paso and Santa Fe, the three-day patriotic program included not only foot races and horse races, the prizes so much "in trade," but a cowboy tug of war, cowgirl race, steer rid-



ing, bronco busting, cowboy relay and a great barbecue."

**Boston Celebrates the Fourth.**—Boston's Fourth of July celebration, planned by the Director of Public Celebrations, began with a Flag Raising at the City Hall at 9:30 in the morning. Local patriotic exercises took place all over the city at 10 o'clock. These consisted of band music, the singing of *America*, the Pledge of Allegiance, brief addresses, the reading of the Declaration of Independence and the singing of *The Star-Spangled Banner*. A municipal athletic meet and swimming races added to the fun of the day. A Children's Pageant, *Story of a Princess Who Could Not Laugh* took place in the afternoon. During the day games and sports were held for the children in twenty-five playgrounds in the city and as usual, ice cream was distributed among the younger children. Band concerts were given in twelve different sections of the city. At 7:30 the flag was lowered amidst an impressive Sunset Military Ceremony. A special program of singing, pageantry, illumination, band playing and fireworks made a brilliant ending for a day never-to-be-forgotten.

**Kirby Night Celebrated in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.**—Kirby Night was not only the occasion of the celebration of the first anniversary of the opening of Kirby Park, but it also presented an opportunity to the citizens of Wilkes-Barre, to express their appreciation to F. M. Kirby, the donor of the park, for the happiness he has given by providing this beauty spot. It was also the occasion for the first turning on of the new lighting system in the park. A parade of city employees and equipment was held prior to the park ceremonies, which consisted of a number of interesting speeches, and the presentation to Mr. Kirby of a bouquet by the members of the Serve-Your-City Club. More than 5000 attended the Kirby Night exercises, which will be an annual affair hereafter.

**Recent Pageants.**—The Pageant of Stoneham, Mass., directed by Percy Jewett Burell, recently became a notable addition to the colorful historical spectacles of American communities. Produced in a natural amphitheatre with a background of forest, the pageant marked the 200th anniversary of the town. A thousand townspeople were in the cast.

The pageant traced the history of Stoneham

from the winter's day in 1632 when its site was discovered by Governor John Winthrop and a group of Boston explorers. The finale is a beautiful masque with a procession of "town builders," including agriculture, industry, health, education, religion and fellowship.

A feature of "Old Home Week" as conducted by the American Legion Post in Phoenixville, Pa., was a pageant "Building the Bridge from Barbarism to Civilization," staged at the race track. Elizabeth Hines Hanley of the Playground and Recreation Association of America directed. The pageant was written by Rev. W. Herbert Burk, rector of the Washington Memorial Church at Valley Forge. Penrose D. Jones, a student at the Philadelphia School of Industrial Art, designed the beautiful costumes.

Built around the settling and progress of America, the pageant introduced music, pantomime, and dancing. A poetic prologue was read by "The Master Builder."

**Spring Music.**—Among the interesting reports of spring music which have come in is that of Cincinnati's historic festival, given this year for the fifty-second time. The children's cantata, *Young America*, was one of the memorable events. Opening with Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*, McCormack and Matzenauer singing the solo parts, the festival closed with an all-Wagner program.

The seventeenth annual festival of the Chicago and North Shore Festival Association opened with Haydn's *Creation*. The children's chorus of 1,500, always a much-appreciated feature, sang in *Marta*.

North Carolina celebrated its first state-wide community music week, marked by the debut of the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra.

Raleigh's St. Cecilia Club won the women's prize and their men's chorus also captured the men's prize, while the prize for mixed chorus went to Charlotte. In connection with the festival a state-wide music memory contest was conducted under the auspices of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs.

#### LINDSBORG, KANS.

All attendance records were broken at the Lindsborg festival this year, when two thousand people were turned away from the auditorium on the final night. Visitors came from all parts of Kansas and from ten other states. Lindsborg hopes within a year to start building a new audi-



torium, for which there is already a fund of \$85,000.

#### PHILADELPHIA, PA.

An audience of more than 30,000 sat under the sky in the great stadium of the University of Pennsylvania to hear the music festival staged under the auspices of the Philadelphia Music League on June 4th. Dr. Herbert J. Tily is President of the League and Mrs. Frederick W. Abbott is managing director. Thousands of musicians took part in the varied program. The festival chorus of 1,500 voices was under the direction of Henry Gordon Thunder.

Ballets and a pantomime *The Festival of Bacchus* were part of the program. Virtually all of the artists were Philadelphians. Toward its close, the festival introduced the second scene from the second act of *Aida*, given by members of the Philadelphia Civic Opera Company. It closed with *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, played by nineteen massed bands, led by John Philip Sousa.

#### ANN ARBOR, MICH.

For the thirty-second time Ann Arbor staged its historic May music festival, which this year was under the direction of Earl Vincent Moore. The University Choral Union and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra presented programs. This year's children's concert was called by the Detroit Free Press "The best a May festival has ever offered."

#### SPARTANBURG, S. C.

"The best yet," said Spartanburg of its thirtieth music festival, which opened with a choral night and included a performance of Flotow's *Marta* with a chorus of five hundred school children. Rosa Ponselle and Mario Chamlee were among the artists appearing.

#### SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

As a climax to a brilliant music season came the second spring music festival, presented in the civic auditorium under the joint auspices of the Musical Association of San Francisco and the city. Alfred Hertz was general director. The festival marked the organization of a great community chorus, which will become permanent under the year-round leadership of Hans Leschke. The chorus already has an extensive repertoire at its command.

#### SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Audiences were large and enthusiastic during the Springfield Music Festival, which opened on May 8th in the auditorium. The festival chorus of three hundred voices was under the direction of John J. Bishop of the Boston Festival Orchestra.

**A Browsing Corner.**—Speaking at the meeting of the School Libraries Section, 47th Annual Conference of the American Library Association at Seattle, Miss Eleanor M. Witmer, Supervisor of Libraries, Denver Public Schools, told of attempts through "browsing corners" to lure the student of today into leisurely contemplation of books.

In this day of the endless movie reel, the blazing headline, the realistic novel, we need to awaken the student's consciousness to the beautiful in literature and art. This the library can best do through the provision of well illustrated editions of the masterpieces for this browsing corner. "For this is the priesthood of art—not to bestow upon the universe a new aspect, but upon the beholder a new enthusiasm."

**Play First.**—The park rules of the West Side Parks in Chicago have been very leniently interpreted during the summer in order to provide play for children and youths. Ball playing on grass plots, fishing and wading in lagoons and even romping on the golf courses have been permitted at certain hours of the day. The center drives have been closed on Sundays and holidays, as a protection to children at play. "It is either the grass or humanity," was the opinion given by a prominent judge as to the park rights of children.

**Boys' Hobby Show, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.**—Seventy-five hundred people visited the First Annual Boys' Hobby Show given under the auspices of the Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Lions' Club, March 23rd to 29th, 1925. All of the 10 public and 10 parochial schools participated, and out of 3,500 eligible to enter the Show about 2,000 actually had exhibits on view.

In arranging the exhibits the boys in each grade were asked to elect a captain or chairman, whose duty it was to encourage the boys to enter their exhibits, to check up in the preparation, and to report to the general chairman about a week before the opening of the Show.

All kinds of toys and handcarved articles were exhibited, and so successful was the Show that plans are already under way for next year's exhibit, which will be extended by the addition of art craft department and by the location in the mechanical section of an iron shaft, operated by an electric motor, which will provide power for any mechanical toys the boys may wish to enter.

**Play Streets in Cincinnati.**—The summer playground plans of Community Service of Cincinnati include the setting aside of nine streets for play in various parts of the city. The streets will be open each night with the exception of Saturday and Sunday, will have a program of group games for boys and girls and such special activities as boxing, races, tournaments. There will be Gypsy storytellers, who will tell stories each night to the smaller children, and a traveling theater whose performances will be taken to the various streets.

**Banks Help Carry Play Referendum.**—The banks of Jacksonville, Florida, recently demonstrated their good will and belief in the recreation movement by running the following advertisement in the newspapers in connection with the referendum campaign for recreation conducted in that city by the Playground and Recreation Board.

#### PLAYGROUNDS OR PLAGUE GROUNDS?

On June 2nd the voters of Jacksonville will be asked to decide whether one mill be added to taxes to be used for playgrounds and recreational facilities for children.

Seventy-one per cent. of all criminals in institutions in the United States are of juvenile age. As a nation we are spending 9 cents per capita for recreation to keep young people straight and \$439.39 a year to punish those who go wrong.

With the funds supplied by the additional millage asked for, Jacksonville children will be given playgrounds, athletic coaching and supervision, and general oversight of free time during the most formative period of their lives.

VOTE FOR THIS MEASURE, AND GIVE OUR  
CITIZENS OF TOMORROW A BETTER  
CHANCE FOR HEALTH AND  
CHARACTER

*What Helps the Community Helps the Bank*

The referendum vote was carried by a majority of nearly 4 to 1. It will provide about \$80,000 for the recreation system or about one dollar per capita.

#### **Gift of Wading Pool to Manchester, N. H.**

—During a downpour of rain, on July 22nd, with 200 people looking on, the wading pool given by the Rotary Club of Manchester, N. H., to the Parks and Playgrounds Commission, was dedicated with a simple and brief ceremony. The following day brought scores of children to make use of it. This cement pool is located on the east side of Park common. The water is 20" at its deepest point. The showers are located at the south side of the pool. There are four sprays, attached to the top of a pipe which is nearly 10 feet in height. The attachments are such that one shower of water is thrown into the air and another downward. Nearly 100 youngsters may receive the benefit of this spray while scores of others have ample room to play about in the water.

#### **Sunday Swimming in Pittsburgh.**

—The city swimming pools of Pittsburgh, Pa., drew a large crowd of bathers and swimmers on Sunday, July 19th—the first Sunday on which the pools had been open to the public. The pools will continue to be open for swimming on Sundays as well as on weekdays throughout the summer.

#### **Gift to Y. M. C. A. Camp in Wisconsin.**

C. W. Nash, President of the Nash Motor Company of Kenosha, Wisconsin, has recently given a \$22,000 lodge with all modern improvements at Camp Manitowish, the Y. M. C. A. camp in the North Woods, Wisconsin. By his gift of the building, Nash Lodge, he has made possible an increase of 100 to 125 per cent. in the capacity of the camp. The lodge is located in the midst of a grove of virgin timber, Norway and white pines. It will have social and mess halls, kitchen, pantry, storage rooms, a bank, a store, leaders' office, council ring, a stage, and wide porches, besides bedrooms for cooks and helpers and for guides and visiting speakers.

#### **A Memorial Community Building in Goldsboro, N. C.**

—A Memorial Community Building housing the American Legion, Red Cross, Associated Charities and Community Service was recently dedicated in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Hon. Josephus Daniels made the chief address and read communications from Newton Baker, Raymond Fosdick and others who were prominent in war leadership at the time the building was planned. The building is very attractive,

duplicating in some ways Mount Vernon, the residence of George Washington.

One portion of the building provides a gymnasium and auditorium combined, which will seat 700. It is planned to use the outdoor space surrounding the building for recreation purposes. A sketch has been made outlining courts for hand ball, volley ball, tennis and horseshoe pitching.

In 1924, \$35,000 was raised and in 1925 an additional fund of \$25,000 was collected to complete and furnish the building. The city and county provide \$1800 each year for its maintenance.

**Pasadena's Playground-Community-Service Service Bureau.**—"Play and Recreation in Pasadena" is the title of the very attractive annual report recently issued by the Playground Community Service in that city. This report contains much interesting material, including a number of good pictures, showing a variety of activities conducted. In addition to the other work of the organization, a Service Bureau is maintained which is ready at all times to give information and render assistance along the following lines:

1. Suggestions for the organizing and conducting of athletic events, sports and tournaments
2. Suggestive programs and assistance in organizing activities at the picnics and socials of schools, stores, churches
3. Plans for backyard playground equipment
4. Directory of recreational facilities and organizations in Pasadena
5. Instruction in swimming, tennis and other sports
6. Small circulating library relating to play and recreation

7. Rental of costumes and properties at a nominal charge to outside groups and individuals of the community

8. Loan of moving picture machine and other equipment for educational and social recreation

This section in the report ends with the caption: "Playground Community Service will grow in just the measure that it serves the community."

**Detroit Counts the Cost.**—For the year ending June 30th, 1925, the Department of Recreation of Detroit reports a total attendance of 7,923,683. Of this number 58 per cent. were children and 42 per cent. adults; 69 per cent. were males and 31 per cent. females.

The maintenance cost of the Department for the year was \$456,510.06. A per capita cost of \$.0576; \$181,061.30 was spent on permanent improvements. This added to the maintenance cost gives an expenditure of 53 cents per capita for recreation in the City of Detroit.

These figures are based on a population of 1,200,000.

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In their play children learn to observe quickly, judge, to weigh values, to pick out essentials, to give group attention; they learn the value of co-operation, to recognize the rights of others as well as to insist on their own being recognized; they learn the meaning of freedom through law; they learn the value and function of work and the joy of accomplishment. No wonder that play is regarded by many as the most important educational factor of them all.

(From *Psychology of Childhood*, by Norsworthy and Whitley)

France has a prize which must be awarded for moral and social progress. Paavo Nurmi was considered for the 1925 award but rejected on the ground that his exploits did not meet the conditions.

*The New York Sun* says, "How can men think of barring Nurmi from consideration on the ground that his performances do not lead to moral and social progress?"

The man who started this bit of philosophy could never have witnessed Nurmi's first victory in the mile run in New York City. There was hardly a boy in Madison Square Garden watching the great Finn but was resolving himself on a clutch at the white star of a broken record. There was not an adult in the great crowd who did not feel admiration for the perfect body and the artist's use of it. Such feelings work themselves out into certain habits of life.

Performances like Nurmi's races built up the English sporting tradition.





MAYOR JOHN H. CATHEY, ASHEVILLE, N. C., 1925

## A "Recreation" Mayor

John H. Cathey believes that recreation is a vital part of a city's job. And not a little of Asheville's recent progress in public recreation has been due to that belief.

Under Mayor Cathey's leadership the city has opened a \$200,000 athletic field, enlarged play space about its schools and built a new city hall, which contains an auditorium for community gatherings. A municipal golf course has been under construction and when it is opened in the fall it will add Asheville to the one hundred American cities which put the popular game within the reach of all their citizens. The public recreation park, with its fifty-six acre lake, swimming pool, merry-go-round and other play apparatus, is a perennial source of health and joy to Asheville, young and old.

Last summer a representative of the Playground and Recreation Association of America visited Asheville to determine the possibilities of helping the city to set up a recreation system. Asheville proved decidedly ready to organize for

recreation. In less than a month it had a recreation commission and a municipal appropriation with which to employ a year-round recreation director.

Mayor Cathey's energy and his strong belief in public recreation were behind this quick action. He called together a group of representative citizens to discuss the recreation measure. He applied to recreation purposes a special fund which was at his disposal, thus enabling the city to act immediately and making a budget petition unnecessary.

In October Mayor Cathey will extend the city's welcome to leaders in recreation from all parts of America. Asheville has been chosen from thirty cities in thirteen states as the convention city for the Twelfth National Recreation Congress. Its progressive provision for public recreation helped to influence this decision. Its spirit in planning civic backing for the convention was further expression of the conviction of Asheville and its Mayor that more play areas and play leadership are an urgent need of America and the South. Through the holding of the Congress in Asheville, public recreation in the South will be set forward many years, Southern recreation experts predict.

The capital city of "The Land of the Sky" has every natural recreation attraction. Its climate, its scenic beauties and outdoor sports yearly draw thousands of pleasure-seekers. Municipal recreation facilities are adding to Asheville's fame as a resort. But to make Asheville more liveable for its own people has been the prime consideration of the "Recreation" Mayor in promoting public play.

## Men and Women Want to Be Gay

Men and women want to be gay but find it difficult. That's why musical comedy tickets are in demand and command such high prices.

In fiction and on the stage characters assume obligations, seek adventures, perform deeds, threatening consequences which the earnest onlooker dares only in imagination. Between the limit of man's daring and the limit of man's imagination lies the most fertile field of fiction.

Amateur dramatics give the individual himself a chance to act characters he has dreamed of, to enter sympathetically into experiences that will never be his own in real life.

Through the leadership of the municipal recreation systems boys and girls may be trained to be gay without being foolish.



## Will You Be There?

Will you be in Asheville when Joseph Lee calls to order the Twelfth Recreation Congress? Will you be among those present when the games and folk dances take place on the green near the Battery Park Hotel?

Do not miss the Congress this year because it promises to be the best yet. For the program of general and section meetings, the Congress Committee announces such stellar attractions as Governor John G. Winant of New Hampshire, whose topic will be "The Responsibility of the Government for Promoting Community Recreation"; Joseph Lee, opening address; Mayor John H. Cathey of Asheville, address of welcome; H. Augustine Smith of Boston University, "Synthetic Arts in Community Life"; Peter W. Dykema (himself); Robert Lassiter of Charlotte; Rev. M. Ashby Jones of Atlanta, "Recreation and the Church"; J. C. Walsh of New York City; E. S. Draper of Charlotte, "Planning for Future Parks and Playgrounds of the South"; Elizabeth Burchenal, folk dancing; H. F. Enlows of the American Red Cross; M. F. Hasbrouch of New York City, swimming pool engineer, "Swimming Pool Problems"; Raymond H. Torrey of New York, "State Parks"; Kate Oglebay, executive secretary of the Inter-theatre Arts, Inc., the Little Theatre section; C. B. Smith of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, "Rural Recreation," and many others of equal note.

A feature of the program will be the water sports and swimming pool demonstration under the leadership of H. F. Enlows. All of Friday, October 10th, will be given over to classes and demonstrations in music, dramatics, games and rural recreation.

Golfers take note that the Asheville Golf Club very kindly offers its membership privileges to all delegates. Tours of the surrounding country, with its remarkable scenery, are being planned.

For further particulars write to the Congress Committee, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

## Can a Whistle Stop Play?

The fathers and mothers of Ventnor City, N. J., find that their children prefer to play instead of coming home to supper. The city has decided to blow a steam whistle at supper time to see if the children cannot be summoned from their play to eat their evening meal.

There may be doubt as to whether boys and girls want to do certain things, but the world over, there can be no more doubt than there is in Ventnor City, N. J., that children want to play and usually are more interested in play than in eating.

Is it not worth while to give some time and thought to a tendency so universal and so compelling?

For years our water falls have given us pleasure as we have watched them, and now the new industrial era is harnessing these water falls and using this electricity for power.

For years the play of little children has given us pleasure and now it is agreed that attention to play can be used to give us a moral and social progress which will be comparable to the industrial progress which has come through the use of electricity.

And that is why many of the ablest men and women of America are today giving their lives to trying to make it easy for boys and girls and men and women to have the right kind of opportunity for play. Elihu Root is reported to have said, "There is no problem before the world today more important than training for the right use of leisure."

And it was Aristotle who said a great many years ago, "The whole end and object of education is training for the right use of leisure."

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Recently in one of his public addresses, President Coolidge raised the question whether after all our large cities possess as great advantages as we have thought. This question is being asked by an increasing number of thoughtful men and women the world over. Every few weeks one hears of some meeting where there has been discussion of the garden cities which have been built and of the special plans for the development of parts of cities here and there so as to leave much more open space and make the cities much more attractive places in which to bring up children. Mention is made of places like Letchworth, Welwyn and many other such developments.

There is growing evidence that we are at the beginning of a very considerable movement for giving a great deal of time and thought to making the parts of our cities in which we live, and probably also the parts of our country in which we work, much more beautiful, attractive, and much more restful than they have been heretofore.



TABLE ROCK, A CURIOUS NATURAL FORMATION, ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL SCENES IN STORE FOR DELEGATES TO THE RECREATION CONGRESS

# Michigan Goes by Automobile

A Motor Coach Trip through the Scenic Wonders of the Sunny South including Mammoth Cave, Lincoln's Birth Place, and Battle Fields of Chattanooga to the Asheville Congress is announced in the following circular:

Bright and early on the morning of Monday, September 28, we will take one of the DeLuxe Motor Coaches of the People's Motor Coach Company traveling over the recently completed Highway to Toledo, and then south through Ohio. At Findlay, Ohio, we will stop for a light luncheon and then continue to the City of Dayton where we will spend the night.

We leave Dayton at 7:30 a. m. Tuesday morning with a short stop at Cincinnati, then across the Ohio River into Kentucky having luncheon at the little town of Williamston. From this point we proceed west to the capital city of Kentucky, Frankfort, where we spend the night.

Wednesday morning we make another early start proceeding to the typical southern city, Louisville, where the members of the party will be taken for a sight-seeing trip and then proceed south through West Point, the center of the great Artillery Encampment during the war, to Elizabethtown where we will have luncheon. From there we make a short trip to Hodgenville in order to see the famous Lincoln Birth Place, and from there to Cave City.

Thursday morning early the coach takes us to Mammoth Cave, eleven miles distant, where Tour No. 1 affords sights and experiences one finds unable to describe adequately, in itself alone justifying the time and expense of the trip. We then return to Cave City for luncheon and proceed south through the Kentucky and Tennessee Mountains—the wildest kind of scenery and an opportunity to see at close hand the farms of the primitive "crackers"—arriving in Nashville sufficiently early to undertake a short sight-seeing trip before continuing to Murfreesboro where we spend the night.

From Murfreesboro we proceed next morning early to Chattanooga, Tennessee, arriving there in time for luncheon and ample opportunity to visit Look-Out Mountain and Missionary Ridge and Chickamauga Park, and other points prominent during the Civil War.

Saturday morning we leave for Knoxville, stopping for a light luncheon at Dayton.

Sunday morning we enter upon the final leg of our journey reaching Asheville in the afternoon.

How does this appeal to you as a real honest to goodness trip to Asheville and our Congress of 1925? Doesn't it seem just made to order for hard working Recreation men and women?

What a lark we can have if the Michigan people will all get together and put this trip across—Let's make it a Michigan affair.

Imagine arriving at Asheville 25 strong—motor coaches and all!

The People's Motor Coach have co-operated with us most splendidly. They have planned this trip with every detail complete—(hotels, etc., en route) at the very lowest possible figure in order to enable as many as possible to share the fun—with very little added cost and with as few extra days as possible to make the trip one which will be decidedly worth taking and still not too strenuous (200 miles a day).

The bus fare will be Sixty Dollars (\$60.00) round trip. This will include all side trips both en route and during the Congress—the added cost en route (hotels, meals, etc.) will not be over Thirty or Forty Dollars). The cost of the Convention at Asheville is not included.

The bus will accommodate 29 or 30 passengers, but our capacity on this trip will be 25 in order to assure comfort to all—First come, first served!

Reservations may be made at once with Viola P. Armstrong, Department of Recreation, 504 Elmwood Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, or with Mr. William Robinson, 610 Dwight Building, Jackson, Michigan.

Ten Dollars (\$10.00) must be paid with all reservations in order to reserve place in bus.

Let's know what you think of the trip and do plan to join us, if you can—believe the association during the trip will be of great value to each and every one of us—and will make this 1925 Congress the one which will stand out in our memory.

We'd like to have every city possible represented.

Let's go, MICHIGAN!!!

Here's for 100% !!!

During the days of the Convention (October 5-10) short trips will be made by the coach to nearby points of interest such as Biltmore, Buena Vista and Skyland.

Early on the morning of October 11, we leave



Asheville, taking luncheon at Cumberland Gap and spending the night at Dora, Kentucky. This section of the trip, like that from Chattanooga, is entirely through the Allegheny Mountains, and affording views of scenery unthought of by the average Detroiters.

On Monday, October 12, we leave Berea, lunching at Cincinnati and spending the night at Piqua, Ohio. The next morning at 8:00 we resume our journey northbound, having luncheon at Bowling Green and arriving back in Detroit early in the afternoon.

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### Morale

Napoleon said, "In war, the morale is to the physical as three is to one." Leslie D. Zeleny writes in the *Journal of Applied Sociology*, that administrators and statesmen of today would probably say, "In social groups morale is to the physical as three is to one—but we know little about how to develop morale with any certainty."

Without morale there is apt to be an accumulation of dead knowledge which does not result in action. Morale means a confidence which helps greatly with success. Morale means sustaining power. When a group of men work together for a common aim with buoyancy of spirit, zeal, hope, expectancy of success, then we feel that morale exists. Morale is dependent in considerable part on common aims and a common spirit. A happy sharing of leisure time together does much to create a common spirit. Morale is something which grows from day to day and week to week. It cannot be created over night. It cannot be created simply by talking about it. Just as it is hard to steer a boat unless the boat is under way, so it is hard to have morale unless the group is going somewhere, unless there is real purposeful activity.

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The City Commissioners of Tampa, Florida, have recently shown practical appreciation of the work of the local Recreation Association. An extra revenue of \$10,000 was received by the city from unexpected sources. The City Commissioners suggested giving half of it to the Board of Health and half to the Recreation Association. This is indication of approval of the first year's recreation program in Tampa. There are now six playgrounds for white children and one for colored children in operation.

## Good Times Club of America

*The Janesville, Wisconsin, Daily Gazette*, which is doing much to further community projects of various kinds, is promoting Good Times Clubs which exist for the sole purpose of "laying the foundation in the lives of the young people of its membership for the true and lifelong happiness" which the right use of leisure helps make possible. Over 4,000 children in southern Wisconsin representing 191 different school branches were members on January 1, 1925. The service of the Good Times Club of America consists of a monthly recreation bulletin sent its branches, the providing of recreation material and of motion picture equipment, the awarding of achievement buttons, the promotion of music memory contests, kite tournaments and of community Play Days and similar events.

A Good Times Club Manual, prepared by Florence S. Hyde, Community Editor of the *Janesville Daily Gazette*, tells the purpose of the Club, gives suggestions for organizing simple preliminary rules, gives suggestions for games, storytelling, dramatics, directions for games, tournaments and recreation programs for different months. A bibliography adds value to this book, which may be secured in slip sheet notebook form for \$1.00.

Dr. Knud Rasmussen is authority for the following Eskimo legend:

"There was no sun, no moon, no stars. Everywhere there was only cold and darkness. A young man of promise was picked up in the talons of a giant eagle and carried to the eagle's eyrie. There he found instead of being carried to the mountain crest for food he was to converse with two sagacious eagles who were to coach him in the fine human pursuits of song, dances and feasts. He learned of these pastimes which would make life better and happier and, returning with the young eagle, taught his people to sing and dance and feast. Then light came into the world; and all the old eagles became young again."

Dr. Rasmussen said there are more than 2,000 legends and songs among the Eskimos of the frozen north. Dancing is one of the chief pastimes.

"Every man and woman makes poems and songs. I doubt if there are any people who have developed, primitive as it is, the fine sense of rhythm these people seem to have acquired."



# To Provide Playing Fields for Great Britain

An earnest and well-supported effort is now under way in Great Britain to provide playing fields for the youth of the nation. As a first step the following letter was sent out by a group of representative citizens:

## MORE PLAYING FIELDS FOR THE PEOPLE

Dear Sir:

The lack of adequate recreation grounds for the great majority of our young people is a matter which for many years past has occupied the minds of everyone who has the interest of the Nation's health and efficiency at heart. Today this problem demands an even closer attention. From nearly every city, town and village comes the cry from our boys and girls and our young men and young women for more and yet more playing fields, and so great is the demand and so far short of normal requirements the supply, that in every big city today a really critical and indeed tragic situation exists.

If we examine the reason for this serious state of affairs, we find that they are many. First, the lack of town-planning in the past, particularly in the last hundred years when has occurred the greatest influx into our cities of population from country towns and villages. Secondly, the building of whole residential quarters with no deliberate provision for open spaces in connection with them; and thirdly, the actual absorption for houses, factories, roads and railways of the fields suitable for recreation, many of which were previously used for that purpose.

Each of these has been, and still is, a contributory factor to the shortage of recreation grounds, but the main underlying cause of the whole trouble is this:—Whereas the building of houses and the construction of roads and railways have rightly been accepted as matters of National importance, the recreation of the people, which affects our National well-being to such a degree, has been left to take care of itself, and how well, or rather how badly it has done so can best be seen by anyone who takes the trouble to go into the slums or to visit the outskirts of any of our great cities on a Saturday afternoon.

Our young people are continually being told to play and not look on. There is real irony in this when we think of the thousands and tens of thousands who have no grounds to play on.

Surely, Sir, it is time that the value of providing more playing fields for the Nation as an aid to the health, strength and happiness of the people was recognized in some official manner.

We do not for an instant suggest a Ministry of Sport, but we do very strongly urge—Firstly, that the Ministry of Health, in whose hands lies the health of the people, should give a much closer attention to this matter, and in the closest cooperation with the Local Authorities endeavor to find a solution. The Government which decides by Administrative and Legislative action to ensure for the masses more playing and recreation fields of every kind will be doing an immense public service.

And, Secondly, we suggest the formation of a National organization, which, without trespassing in any way on the functions of the Local Authorities or of those other Bodies referred to below, shall coordinate effort and support them in their most praiseworthy endeavors to provide the people with adequate recreation grounds.

In conclusion we desire to state that we very fully realize that the Local Authorities, many bodies such as the London Playing Fields, the Manchester Playing Fields and the Commons & Footpaths Preservation Societies, the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, the Juvenile Organization Committees in the great cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Birmingham, Sheffield and other centres, many great Business Houses and the Governing Bodies of our great National Sports have been working in this direction for many years past and indeed have given an immense stimulus to improving matters in their own Areas and on behalf of those whose interests they watch.

But in some cases they have failed to achieve their purpose through lack of funds and also owing, we suggest, to the want of a Central Organization to back up and support their chivalrous and praiseworthy efforts.

We sincerely hope that these many bodies will now take a further step and combine with others who are equally interested and prepared to devote their time to this matter, in order to create the central organization which, in our opinion, must be formed if a satisfactory solution of the problem is to be reached.

We invite anyone who is interested and who is prepared to assist the movement, to communicate

with the Honorary Organizer, National Playing Fields Association, 166, Piccadilly, London, W.I.

We remain, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

NANCY ASTOR	D. LLOYD GEORGE
ROBERT BADEN-POWELL	A. F. LONDON
MARGARET BONDFIELD	LONSDALE
BURNHAM	J. RAMSAY MACDONALD
CADOGAN	T. J. MACNAMARA
CAMPDEN	OXFORD
CHEYLESMORE	PLUMER
W. S. DONNE	JOHN SIMON
(Pres: Rugby Union)	H. SMITH-DORRIEN
ARTHUR CROSFIELD	PHILIP SNOWDEN
J. R. CLYNES	SUTHERLAND
ARTHUR GREENWOOD	C. P. TREVELYAN
HAIG	SIDNEY WEBB
HARRIS (M. C. C.)	WODEHOUSE
ARTHUR HENDERSON	JAMES YOUNGER
W. L. HICHENS	(Capt.: R. & A. Golf Club)
THOMAS INSKIP	
J. SCOTT LIDGETT	

We do not think there is a single person in the land who will dispute the justice or soundness of such a cause and so, when we make our Appeal, we confidently look to every man and woman in the country who is able to give and especially to those who, by an accident of birth, have been privileged from boyhood and girlhood to have had the use of excellent and adequate playing fields on which to take their recreation, to support us.

Immediate and enthusiastic response prompted the second letter:

Dear Mr. Braucher:

On behalf of the organizers of the National Playing Fields Association, I desire to thank you very sincerely for having written and expressed your sympathy with the movement.

You will be interested to know that since the date of publication of our letter, i. e., April 4th, some hundreds of letters have been received in this office and without exception the writers are unanimous as to the necessity of immediately setting up a National Organization, and the message which is contained in each and every one of them is "Go straight ahead before it is too late, for you have the country behind you."

We are going straight ahead and the purport of this letter is first to thank you for your letter, secondly to give you a concise statement of the history and progress of the movement up to date; and thirdly to suggest to you how, pending the establishment of the National Association, you can render the greatest service to the cause.

#### HISTORY AND PROGRESS UP TO DATE.

The following very briefly states how the present movement originated:

1. (a) Since two or three years ago His Royal Highness the Duke of York, who as you are doubtless aware is very deeply interested in the welfare and happiness of the youth of the Nation, expressed a wish that a scheme, which would ameliorate the present situation of the shortage of playing fields for the poorer boys and girls should be prepared and submitted to him. His Royal Highness' desire was at once acceded to and, as a result of a very exhaustive examination of the whole question and of many visits to every big city and town in Great Britain, a report was drawn up and presented to His Royal Highness.

(b) For many reasons, which need not be gone into here, it has been found impossible to give effect to the proposals contained in the said scheme until now, and although the delay may in a sense have prejudiced the effective work of some of the proposals in certain cities, in the majority there is still time to assist very materially the Local Authorities and other Bodies, who have been and are still struggling so hard to meet the demand of the hundreds of boys and girls, whose interests are in their hands. The enforced delay in launching the scheme has made it possible for the Organizers to become better acquainted with the many sides of the problem, and this has helped them very considerably in framing their policy and in coming to a decision as to the best method of putting that policy into execution.

(c) His Royal Highness received the said report and expressed himself in entire agreement, but having regard to the importance and magnitude of the undertaking, he suggested that his brother, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, should be asked to identify himself with the movement. The Prince of Wales was at once approached through the Comptroller of his Household, viz., Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey, and His Royal Highness not only immediately concurred, but went a step further by suggesting that his brothers, Prince Henry and Prince George, should also come in and join hands to help in what His Royal Highness described as essentially a Young People's movement, and we are happy to inform you that today we have the four Princes now prepared to come in at the head of the National Association, directly it is formed and established on a sound workable basis.

(d) Before, however, attempting to form the National Association we considered it essential to ascertain public opinion, and with this end in view letter marked "A" attached to this correspondence was broadcasted in the Press on

April 4th, and today, April 11th, exactly a week since the date of its publication, we have overwhelming evidence of the fact that the case, as put in our letter of the 4th, in no way overstates the tragic and lamentable shortage of Playing Fields for our young people, and that the one and only solution is to coordinate the efforts of all existing bodies and grapple with the problem on National lines. We propose to do so and below in the next paragraph of this letter I give you our plan of action.

#### PLAN OF ACTION.

The following is our plan of campaign:

2. (a) We are inviting to a meeting representatives of existing Bodies, such as are referred to in letter A. and others, and together we shall draw up the Constitution, Rules and Articles of a National Association. The meeting will take place almost immediately.

(b) We are holding a Public Meeting in London to which everyone interested will be invited to attend from all parts of the country. At this meeting those present will be asked to give their views on the proposed Constitution, copies of which will have been previously circulated to the public; and after full discussion the said Constitution will be passed and communicated to the Press.

(c) The National Playing Fields Association being formed will devote its entire energies to the problem of the people's facilities for recreation and will leave no stone unturned in its efforts to drive home to the Government the lamentable shortage of Playing Fields throughout the country and to the necessity of facing and dealing with the problem on National lines.

(d) The National Playing Fields Association will have a County organization with a branch in every county, each county having its sub-branches in every one of its cities, towns and villages, and the big cities and boroughs being dealt with as separate entities. The whole will be directed and helped by a Central Council on which will be the representatives of every County Association and of any other bodies that it may be thought desirable to elect.

How, PENDING THE FORMATION AND ESTABLISHING PROCESS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, THOSE INTERESTED CAN HELP.

3. We ask you to take the following steps:

(1) Write at once to the Press (London, Local or Provincial) and give your own opinion or that

of the Body or Community you represent on the subject of the shortage of playing fields and make at the same time suggestions regarding the Constitution of the National Association. This is very important.

(b) Get your friends to do the same and if they have not already done so, get them to write to me at 166, Piccadilly, expressing their sympathy with and interest in the movement.

(c) Get every Sports Club or Association of Clubs and all bodies of Sport—no matter how small or humble—with which you are acquainted, to pass resolutions whole-heartedly endorsing the action of the Organizers of the movement, and to communicate the same to the Press.

(d) Immediately start in your own district, area, city, town or village to get information regarding the actual number of PUBLIC AND PERMANENT football, cricket, hockey and netball grounds, tennis courts and running tracks and at the same time the numbers roughly of boys and girls and young men and young women of the playing age, say between 8-30. (N. B. You are certain to find the number of the PERMANENT AND PUBLIC grounds and pitches available totally inadequate for the needs of the young Community and with this information in front of you continue the campaign in your local Press.)

I conclude this letter by drawing your very particular attention to pamphlet marked B. which I would ask you to read because it is of vital importance that the facts therein should be widely known.

If you desire any more literature please write here, stating your requirements and they will be dealt with immediately.

You are at liberty to make whatever use you like of this letter, or of any of the papers enclosed with it.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) R. J. KENTISH

Brig.-General.

Honorary Organized National Playing Fields Scheme.

#### NOTE PLEASE

(1) WE ARE NOT OUT to get the Government to set up a Ministry of Sport or, as one well meaning supporter has described it, a G. H. Q. of Sport.

(2) WE ARE NOT OUT to run counter to or to interfere in the slightest degree with the Local Authorities and those other Voluntary Bodies, which are working so hard to improve the outdoor playing facilities of the masses.



(3) WE ARE NOT OUT, as a prominent person suggested, to find playing fields for our boys to play on in order that the nation may produce better physically developed soldiers. Militarism or the aims of militarism hold no place in this movement.

BUT

(1) WE ARE ALL OUT to impress on the Government the vital importance of dealing with this problem on National lines and it will be our first aim to invite the Prime Minister to receive a deputation of the Council of the proposed National Playing Fields Association in order that he may be apprised of the true state of affairs. In other words:

(2) *We are determined not to let this great wrong on the youth of the country continue any longer.*

#### FINANCE

We have several ways and means of financing our scheme, but before announcing what those ways and means are, we desire to ascertain the views of others in public life well qualified to speak on such a subject. In the meantime we emphasize the fact that there are still many people in our country who are able to give and to leave big sums of money to charitable and other objects provided they are convinced of the justice of the cause and that the objects for which they are asked to give are sound. We have daily evidence of this in the Press.

*Our cause is the cause of the thousands of poor boys and girls living in our great cities and towns, whose playgrounds, owing to a grave oversight on the part of our forbears are the streets and slums. Masses of these boys and girls are crying out for playing fields and we are concerned only with seeing that before it is too late they are provided with many more than they have today.*

If we can achieve our purpose we shall be helping towards a better and a fitter manhood and womanhood, and those who give their financial assistance will be supporting a movement, which is rendering an immense service to the country.

*Howard S. Braucher, Esq., Secretary, Playground and Recreation Association of America, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City:*

MY DEAR MR. BBAUCHER—I thank you sincerely for your letter and enclosures, and I am glad to feel that we are in touch and that we have the sympathy of such a splendid Body as the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

I will keep you in touch with our Movement—I am already sending you the papers which show the progress up to date.

On July 8th we are organizing a great Mass Meeting in the Albert Hall in London, to formally inaugurate the birth of this New Body, and at which His Royal Highness the Duke of York will be present and in the Chair.

It would be a great thing to have a Speaker from your Association telling the story of what you have done, or failing this to have a message which could be read out. Kindly consider this.

In great haste—working 20 hours out of 24 and yet can't keep pace with the work owing to the widespread interest our letter of April 4th has evoked.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) R. J. KENTISH,

Brig.-General.

Hon. Secretary, Provisional Committee, National Playing Fields Association.

THE PLAYGROUND will publish a full report of this meeting when it is received.

Daniel Chase, Chief of the Physical Education Bureau of the State of New York, speaking at the Conference of Directors of Physical Education and heads of Normal Schools and Colleges of Physical Education, held in Washington, D. C., May 7, 1925, said that New York State believes that a teacher or supervisor of physical training should be first of all an educator.

"Skill in performance may be developed, knowledge of methods may be learned, a certain amount of leadership ability acquired—but the elements of personality (moral soundness, enthusiasm, adaptability, which go farthest to my mind in making a successful teacher or supervisor) are present or absent in the individual before he reaches normal school. 'You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.' Select your candidates, therefore, with extreme care. A new form of examination is needed. Sort over and weed out your material frequently. Lift the level of natural requirements to the highest possible point. After that, give the complete training in theory and practice of physical education and eventually the crop of teachers coming into this branch of the teaching profession—the most important part of the whole educational system, will be able to 'deliver the goods'—a better race of citizens—trained in all the elements that go to make healthy, vigorous, efficient and happy life.



# A League of Walkers

*A thousand miles in one year in the open and on foot!* Membership in a League of Walkers to accomplish this feat is proposed by Dr. John H. Finley, Associate Editor of the *New York Times* and vice-president of the P. R. A. A. To each of the first one thousand who complete the thousand miles by April 1, 1926, and send a log—that is, an authentic record of the daily walks making a total of a thousand miles, including one single day's "hike" of at least twenty-six miles, Dr. Finley will himself send a bronze medal, the emblem of the League of Walkers, à la Sainte Terre (to the Holy Land), or as Dr. Finley freely translates "to our better selves."

Dr. Finley himself is a famous walker, a walk around Manhattan Island being a favorite and at least annual recreation. Among his more ambitious walks have been a forty mile walk in France that night which "dawned into the day that waked all Europe to war," a sixty mile walk in one day and night across the Holy Land and a seventy mile walk across New Hampshire. Dr. Finley feels one should have in addition to the daily walk each year some memorable outstanding even thrilling achievement afoot—and it should include the night with the day.

And there is a poetic beauty about the humble walk denied to the machine-possessioned mind. Not every one can sail to foreign climes—but every one can plan a voyage. Crusaders called every road which led à la Sainte Terre the Via Dei, the way of God. Every road may indeed be via dei, a pilgrimage to sundry lands while staying at home. One might while walking to and from one's office or daily work tour the south of France with Felix Gras's *Reds of the Midi*, or across the Campagna from the Eternal City up through Tivoli and out to Horace's Sabine farm or up among the Tuscan hills with Howell's *Tuscan Cities* in one's pocket and other collateral reading and pictures to keep up the play.

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Now and then an article on joys afoot creeps into our hectic press. The Johnstown, Pennsylvania, *Tribune* recently commented editorially as follows:

## WALKING

Is walking a lost art? Or, is there something queer about strolling along on a wonderful day such as yesterday proved to be?

A young, if rather old-fashioned, couple propound the queries.

Yesterday, they say, they decided to take a walk, and started by going out as far as Ferndale, via trolley. Through that pretty suburb the pedestrians wended their way, finally reaching the "upper road" leading down to the Somerest Pike. From then on they seemed to be representatives of a departed era. Every automobilist who passed turned to look, surprisingly or pityingly, at the walkers. Several, some known to the pedestrians and many unknown, slowed up and offered a "lift." Those who were acquainted with the strollers expressed tremendous surprise that anyone could find any pleasure in such "hard work."

Possibly had the couple confined their limbering-up exercises to the byroads, or the woods, they would not have been so much in the limelight. The byroads and woods are not just the places for strolls now, however, and the hard surfaced roads were chosen.

The tremendous surprise, almost awe, that greeted announcements that they were "walking for fun" proved a great source of amusement to the couple. Few, apparently, could understand the impulse, especially in view of the fact that the young couple have a car. Last evening, to cap the climax, two friends called up to ask what had happened to the car, as "we saw you walking out by Ideal Park."

All of which brings up the query, "is walking a lost art, and why is it something which makes its devotees objects of suspicion as to their mentality?"

Possibly many of those who bowled along at 25 to 30 miles an hour in their cars traveled far yesterday. The roads were fine, and the weather perfect, though a trifle cold. In contrast to that mileage, it took the walking couple hours to cover a very few miles, comparatively speaking. But they saw the signs of awakening spring; noticed several wonderful views which had never been visioned from a car seat; and got home tired out but feeling fine—and with the reputation with a score of friends of "being queer."

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The *Outlook* for May 27, 1925, has an article on Walking by Edmund Lester Pearson.

"I live in a city where nobody walks.

". . . A few quaint persons—boys, chiefly—ride bicycles.

" . . . The city man is afraid to walk lest someone take him for a Rube. . . .

"Walking, or physical effort of any kind, unless done on the prescribed athletic field or grounds, and in the proper costume, is decidedly out of the mode; not only is it unfashionable, it is almost a sign of degradation.

" . . . But the country roads are being utterly ruined for walkers, and the American waist-line is steadily growing in circumference, and these things, I venture to suggest, are matters for regret.

" . . . From Easthampton to the light at the tip of Long Island, and back to Montauk Village, is twenty-five miles, perhaps a little more. It is a cheering thing to a middle-aged gentleman of sedentary habit and not precisely lissome in figure, to find that he can take that walk, carrying a pack most of the way. That he can, moreover, do it without hurry, and with ease and pleasure, between the hours of a fairly late breakfast and a dinner in the early evening, and that afterwards he does not require the treatment for blisters, or any restoratives other than to eat dinner and to go to bed when it gets so late that there is nothing else to do. And that next day he does not have to lie swaddled on a shelf nor limp about with a cane, but can take an early train back to the city and to work as usual. After this bit of boasting I can leave discussion of the physical aspects of such a walk, merely remarking that thousands of other middle-aged gentlemen who never allow themselves to walk five miles could do the same thing, if they wished to, and if they didn't consider it, on the whole, an idiotic performance. Idiotic, because nobody does it, and because the good American, thinking himself a rebel, is actually a thorough conformist."

On the practical side, we quote from Hobbies (May, 1925) an article on Woodcraft by Ellsworth Jaeger.

#### HIKING

Of all the woodcraft delights hiking is on the topmost rung. The person who goes afoot is the most independent on earth. He is footloose and free. He can go where neither boat, auto or horse can and sees the most inaccessible places that have the strongest lure for anyone who loves unspoiled nature.

But hiking requires preparation and horse sense as much as any other woodcraft pursuit. You cannot enjoy the country if you are loaded down like a pack mule. The first and last motto to keep in mind at all times is *Go Light*.

If you are to spend the night out of doors you must have a comfortable bed; you will need a shelter against rain, a protection against mosquitoes and flies, and you must have well cooked food.

Clothing is a very important item on a successful hike. Of this, footwear is paramount. Shoes and stockings must fit. Wear a heavy shoe that is roomy but not enough to blister. Don't wear new shoes! Wear light woolen underwear and woolen stockings, a flannel shirt, breeches or knickers.

#### Hiking Shelter

Rain is most uncomfortable especially if you are forced to sleep in it all night (try to sleep if you can) and it is always best for the hiker to be prepared for it. A dog tent, or simply light canvas sewn in the shape of a 7x9 rectangular, will make a good shelter. Put grommets or eye holes around the edges of the canvas. There are various ways of setting up this shelter but the simplest is the "lean-to" type. When erected in this way, build your fire parallel with it and a warm snug shelter will be the result for the slanting canvas reflects the heat.

One of the glooms of hiking overnight is sleeping badly. Don't lie down upon the cold hard earth. The best sort of bed can be had by taking with you a tick made of light canvas with a rubber poncho sewed on the bottom for a ground sheet. The tick is simply a bag about 32 inches by 78 into which you can put dry leaves or bracken and is closed with large blanket pins. The leaves in the bag cannot spread and the rubber sheet keeps off the chill of the ground. A three-pound blanket on top of this is a lot warmer than a five-pound one would be without it. Two light blankets are better than one heavy one.

#### Cooking Kit

Your cooking kit should be composed of a knife, fork, spoon, two small broad kettles with lids, as water boils more quickly in a broad flat kettle than in a deep narrow one. These can also be used as a protection for your food stuffs. You will need a small frying pan also.

A sheath knife is better than a pocket knife. It is stronger, more serviceable and always handy.

You may need a small camp axe, but not very often.

A small canteen, the army pattern will do, is also needed, as you cannot always be sure about

(Concluded on page 341)

# Parks and the Leisure Time of the People

By

C. E. CHAMBERS

*Commissioner of Parks, Toronto, Canada*

Parks are the logical outdoor recreation places of the masses of the people.

It is the duty of every municipality to provide sufficient park areas for the recreation of the people, and to take action in this regard (contrary to practice) before the building up of a town or city makes it impossible to do so effectively.

In the parks should be found opportunity for the outdoor recreation of all the people, young and old, men, women and children, and this recreation should and must take many forms, both active and passive.

Passive recreation for those who cannot undertake active recreation is an essential.

If the provision of parks to meet the recreational needs of the people is to be as valuable and effective as it ought to be, the needs of the community to be served thereby require to be thoroughly studied in the acquiring of lands to this end, and the definite purposes to be served through these lands require to be thoroughly recognized and understood.

The parks and the activities carried on in them will not serve their best and fullest purpose unless and until we have an awakened consciousness of the fact that beyond the advantage of the physical recreation which they afford there is a further and a greater object to be served.

This object should be so to supervise and direct the park activities that the young people engaged in them are taught the virtues of honesty, generosity, courage and refinement—as well as games and methods of play; and that older people are encouraged, by proper direction, in high ideals of loyal and useful citizenship and service to others. Such an object will be attained only through a new or better conception of the far-reaching influence of properly directed park activity, and a supervision and direction of it that contemplates the frailties in human nature and character and aims to strengthen them.

This supervision and direction is so vitally important that it should only be entrusted to those specially fitted and qualified to undertake it—not to those whose effort is simply routine or mechanical.

The error of today lies in the failure of many of our recreation leaders to realize the unlimited possibilities of molding the characters and lives of our people which present themselves in the intimate contact with them afforded us through our park activities. We shall fail in our duty if we do not make the most and best of this wonderful opportunity for good. It is a goal toward which all of us engaged in this work should strive. It is a great enough and splendid enough cause to demand and command our utmost enthusiasm and effort. In it you may serve your God, your country, your community and your neighbor; and you may serve the present and the future.

Let us so do our part that our parks may fulfill their full purpose and destiny in a worth-while service to humanity.

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William H. Johnson, of the Chicago Normal College, writes of the relation of education to a wise use of leisure, in the *Chicago School Journal*. Professor Johnson says that educators recognize that training for leisure time is their task but as yet little has been done about it.

"We have a large number of young workers who are earning good wages, considering their youth, and who have much leisure time. It will be the business of the school to see to it that the pupils, while yet in attendance on school work, are taught how to use such free hours and excess earnings so that their health and moral character may be preserved.

"What is the usual manner in which most of us use our leisure time?

"Is leisure time not only often wasted, but worse than wasted by the average person?

"What percentage of people you know are able to employ their leisure in such a way as either to add to their own satisfaction and genuine pleasure or to make them among the agreeable and useful members of society?

"Recent economic and social developments have provided a new problem in the field of education—one which is as yet very little recognized—the need of education for leisure."



## A Nation-Wide Park Study

At a meeting of the executive committee of the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation held in Washington on May 29th, 1925, Mr. L. H. Weir of the Playground and Recreation Association of America presented a report on the progress of the National Study of Municipal and County Parks now being conducted.

For several years there has been a recognition on the part of those intimately in touch with park development in the United States of the need of a comprehensive study of municipal and county parks with special reference to their human uses. A number of park and recreation leaders had suggested that the Playground and Recreation Association of America, because of its experience in similar work, should make such study. After investigation the Board of Directors of the Association authorized the study to be made, provided adequate funds could be secured.

Early in 1923, the first appeal for funds was made. Later the subject was presented to the executive committee of the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation who went on record as believing a nationwide study was needed. The committee requested the Playground and Recreation Association of America to undertake the study. At a conference in October, 1924, the president and secretary of the American Institute of Park Executives offered to cooperate fully in the proposed work, provided funds were made available. It was understood that the Playground and Recreation Association of America should be responsible for securing the funds and for the executive management of the study.

On November 21, 1924, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial appropriated to the Association the sum of \$26,600 per year for two years to carry on the study as outlined. Mr. L. H. Weir was appointed director of the study.

The first step was the appointment of a National Advisory Committee on the study of municipal and county parks. The following members are serving on the Committee:

Major William A. Welch, Chairman, Executive Officer of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

Mr. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks, Minneapolis, and member of the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Park Executives.

Mr. Will O. Doolittle, Secretary-Treasurer of

the American Institute of Park Executives and Editor of *Parks and Recreation*.

Mr. C. E. Brewer, Commissioner of Recreation, Detroit, Michigan, and Chairman of the Recreation Committee of the American Institute of Park Executives.

Mr. Herman W. Merkel, Head of the Bronx Zoological Park, New York City, and Editor of the Department of Zoological Exhibits, *Parks and Recreation*, American Institute of Park Executives.

Mr. Martin G. Brumbaugh, Ex-Governor of Pennsylvania and President of Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pa.

Mr. Henry Hubbard, Professor of Landscape Architecture, Harvard University; Editor of *Landscape Architecture*, the official organ of the American Society of Landscape Architects; Editor of *City Planning*.

Mr. Otto T. Mallery, Member of the Board of Directors of the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

Dr. J. H. McCurdy, Department of Physical Education, International Y. M. C. A. College, Springfield, Mass.; Editor of *American Physical Education Review*; member of the Board of Directors of the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

Mr. J. Horace McFarland, Ex-President of the American Civic Association.

Mr. Paul C. Lindley, Leader in the movement for development of a park system in Greensboro, North Carolina, and head of the J. VanLindley Nursery Company.

Mr. David I. Kelly, Executive head of the Essex County, New Jersey, Park System.

Mr. Arthur Ringland, Executive Secretary of the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Weir began work as Director on January 1, 1925. After securing all available information on parks, the Director made a study of 45 cities in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida—a study extending from February 10th to April 12th. Later, a staff of five members was selected to help the Director in the study.

It is the purpose of the study and the objective of the Advisory Committee to place emphasis upon the securing of examples of the best standards of recreation developments in parks, and the obtaining of information from all the larger cities though it is believed important to have examples of development of parks in as many of the smaller towns as possible.

# Why Safety and Recreation Belong Together\*

By

ALBERT W. WHITNEY

*Associate General Manager and Actuary, National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters;  
Chairman, Educational Section, National Safety Council*

In closing I want to say explicitly what I am sure you have sensed. We look at you with admiration and reverence as the modern incarnation of the joy of living. You are the 20th Century nymphs and fauns and leprechauns. You are the leaders of the bands of fairies that still may be found in the land of heart's desire. You thought we wanted to stop your play. We don't, we want to play with you. Admit us, I pray, to the glorious company of those that are trying to rediscover the joy of life!

Before undertaking to trace in detail the relation between safety and recreation I want to give you a picture of what the safety movement is, for when that picture is drawn the relation will come naturally into view. The safety movement in its early stages was negative. I wonder if it is not true that the normal development of most movements is from negative to positive. They start with inhibitions against some abuse and the stage of their growth can be measured in terms of the gradual discovery of their positive content. We are now seeing religion and education grow in this way and this has been very definitely the course of development that the concept of safety has followed.

The organized safety movement was an outgrowth of the awakening of the public conscience some fifteen years ago to the appalling loss of life and limb that was going on in industry; this had as one of its other immediate consequences the enactment of workmen's compensation laws. The desire for speed and a short-sighted efficiency had made industry a savage, inhuman monster that was taking an enormous toll in human suffering. The first few years of the safety movement were necessarily taken up in the elimination of these abuses—in the correction of bad ways of doing things. It was an emergency situation in which there was so much that was so obviously needed and so immediately needed that for a period of several years there was no time to look

ahead and discover the larger social implications of the movement and how it could be coordinated with other parts of life.

It was characteristic of this stage that the development should have so largely centered about the slogan "safety first," a sentiment that is both inadequate and misleading, and it is equally characteristic of the latter, more introspective stages of the movement that this slogan is being abandoned.

## SAFETY FIRST OUTGROWN

The safety movement is now recognized as primarily educational and in this field the flagrant ineptitude of the sentiment is particularly apparent. Safety first is an appropriate sentiment in the railroad field, for safety on trains is more desirable than speed, barbers, stock reports or ladies' maids and safety under normal conditions may be made a prime requisite in industry. But to go into the schools with the slogan safety first, which if it is taken literally and seriously means that safety is to be counted as the prime desideratum in life, is not only to be egregiously contrary to the facts of human nature but positively immoral. It has not done the harm that might have been expected solely because our sense of humor and balance is sufficiently strong to cause us to take this sentiment with a large grain of salt, but nevertheless the time has come when the proponents of the safety movement must make it perfectly clear to the public that they are no longer really thinking in terms of safety first.

\*Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, October 17, 1924.

The fact is of course that safety is not the prime object in life. Exactly the contrary is true. The most important thing in the world is adventure, and by adventure I mean a fresh, first-hand experience of life. All that is worth while in life—love, friendship, loyalty, knowledge, art, religion—are adventures in which the human spirit goes out to experience the realities of life; if these experiences lack the element of adventure it can only mean that life is not being lived in the keen way that makes it most worth while, it can only mean that life is deficient in the finest spiritual values. Evolutionary development has been along this line. It is the daring, vital, vigorous, high-souled man and woman with the courage to face and experience the world that have survived and left descendants. Our blood is full of the urge of it and it is unlikely that civilization will be able to divert the stream of life into tamer and more ignoble channels.

But there is danger in living life in this way! Of course there is danger. Danger is woven into the very warp and woof of life. Danger cannot be taken out of life without leaving life flat and uninteresting any more than the bunkers and other hazards can be taken out of a golf-links without leaving it too easy to be worth playing over. The thrill in the game of life quite as much as in the game of golf consists not only in the clean long drives down the fairway but in keeping out of the bunkers and even more in playing out of the rough.

Here then is a straight, clean issue. How is the safety movement to be harmonized with a life of adventure? Have we two opposing concepts, the adventurous life on the one hand and the safe life on the other?

That all depends upon what we mean by safety. If by safety we mean safety first in the literal sense then goodbye to adventure. But is that the real meaning of safety, is that its deep, inner meaning?

#### SAFETY "FROM" OR SAFETY "FOR"?

We must make a closer analysis. A ray of light falls on the situation when we realize that the word safe is incomplete by itself and must be used with a preposition. The obvious preposition is "from." But that does not help matters, for to be safe from something is still negative, it is an avoidance, an inhibition. But there is another preposition that can be used equally well, namely, "for." And here the difficulty begins to disappear for "safety for" is distinctly positive.

Safety *from* leaves a vacancy, but this vacancy is filled by safety *for*. Nature abhors a vacuum and so it appears does thought and language. Safety then instead of being merely inhibitory is in reality substitutional. It throws something out but it puts something else in its place. But what is thrown out and what is put in its place? Well, that is up to you! *You* may say what safety shall mean for you. What do you choose to have thrown out of your life and what do you choose to have put in its place? As for me, I choose adventure. I choose to have the bad adventure thrown out and the good adventure brought in, and because I believe that adventure is in truth the deep, significant value in life by that token I believe that we have here the real meaning of safety. Take an example. You teach a boy to play football safely, or to sail a boat safely or to use a gun safely. In each case you are showing him how he can have a good adventure instead of a bad one. Instead of the bad adventure of breaking his collar-bone he can have the good adventure of carrying the ball across the goal-line; instead of the bad adventure of tipping his boat over and either ending his adventure entirely by drowning or temporarily by a stupid wait for help he can have the good adventure of sailing on to a thrilling finish; instead of ending his hunting adventure with a bullet through his leg he can have the better adventure of the chase.

#### SAFETY FOR MORE AND BETTER ADVENTURE

This is a very different safety from the safety of safety first. Instead of impoverishing life it does just the opposite, it makes life richer and more adventurous. Instead of safety first a better slogan would be "safety for more and better adventures."

Safety then is leagued together in the noble company of recreation, art, love, religion and all the other good forces of life in the work of increasing the depth and breadth and quality of life. It recognizes that there are good values and poor values in life; it gives us the chance to discriminate and select those values that we most prefer. If you are not safe then you cannot select. You must take what chance and carelessness have waiting for you in the form of an accident.

Safety allows you to make a choice, to select in a purposeful way. An accident on the other hand is something that breaks into purpose, that overwhelms your purpose by the dictates of chance or stupid carelessness. "Accident" by derivation means "falling across," that is falling



across some order or purpose. Safety then finally is the condition that makes it possible to live a purposeful life of high adventure.

In the process of evolution the survival of the fit has been survival of the safe, using the word safe in this larger and truer sense. Those have survived who were best able to live this kind of life: this has been the true safety. Civilization is the carrying on with purpose of the processes that were begun under natural selection. Safety has quite as important a part to play therefore in the civilized life of today as in the savage life of the past.

#### AT ROOT ONE OF THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF LIFE

The safety movement has been a religion to those who are giving their lives to it. Many of them could scarcely tell you why, but the reason is evident: they have been dealing with one of the great spiritual forces of life. They have done more than save lives, they have set free the force that brings adventure into life and that has the potency to create a new world.

From this point of view the relation between safety and recreation is immediately clear. Safety rids us of the bad adventure and opens the way to the good adventure but it remains for recreation actually to bring the good adventure. We cannot put the children off of the streets, for playing in the streets is better than not playing at all, unless we can furnish them with other, safer places in which to play. The two movements must go hand in hand. The safety movement needs the recreation movement in order to supply the better adventure. The recreation movement needs the safety movement in order to free life for the better adventure. They are both bound together as inseparable parts of the movement for a richer, better, more spiritual, more truly adventurous life.

There are certain dangers in life that are intrinsic and normal; life cannot be made fool-proof without being made insipid. Safety consists quite as much in knowing how to face danger as in avoiding it. Safety in industry has turned out to be immediately correlated with efficiency, safety in life in general has turned out to be immediately correlated with alertness and intelligence. Accidents are stupid. It is the ignorant, untrained, unalert boy that gets hurt.

Safety has a place in the schools not primarily because of the lives that can be saved, although our experience has gone far enough to allow us to say that 10,000 children's lives a year can be saved through such education, but primarily because it

has this intimate and profound spiritual connection with life, in other words it belongs in the curriculum because safety is a fundamental condition of life. If education is to be an experience of life as well as a preparation for life or better, if it is to be an experience of life as an inevitable condition for being a preparation for life, then it must deal with such things.

#### SEEKING THE JOY OF LIVING

The children themselves with their fresh, naive, true intuition for fundamental values, far keener than we with our rationalizations, have grasped the situation at once. They realize that they are dealing with something big and powerful that bears directly on life and they throw themselves into the work with the fervor of a crusade. To them it is another aspect of the fascinating game of living. And this leads me to speak of another contact with recreation. Safety and recreation are both parts of a purposeful life and such purposefulness is directed toward the continuation of the evolutionary process of producing a finer race, for we cannot overlook the fact that we are only a part of the great cosmic process of carrying on. But that objective is a long way off and fortunately we are paid in other more immediate human values, namely in joy of living. The soul of recreation is joy of living, but similarly with children the soul of safety is joy of living. This is quite different from the grown-up attitude. We grown-ups do things for remote reasons, and often our remote reasons are not only exceedingly remote but exceedingly poor so that our processes become a mere senseless, uninspired treadmill. Children do things for immediate reasons and get far better value for their effort. What I am trying to express is too subtle, it eludes me, but you will, I hope, appreciate that I am bold enough to want to claim for safety a share of that marvelous joy of living that is so essentially the spirit of recreation. Please be generous and let us have a bit!

Physical safety is only a part of something much larger. For the same considerations apply to physical health and to moral health and the concept of safety can be broadened to include not merely the individual but the community, the nation and the world. Take for instance the question of love. What does safety mean here? It does not mean, I assure you, being afraid of sex! Love is an adventure which is clearly within the world purpose, for it is tied up to the very

*(Continued on page 342)*

# Leisure and Labor<sup>\*</sup>

BY MATTHEW WOLL

*Vice-President American Federation of Labor*

It is particularly fitting that your Association, dealing with problems of recreation and playgrounds, should meet here in Atlantic City, the greatest playground in the world, and I am certainly happy to be with you and regret I can't stay in this playground a little longer.

May I extend to you, first of all, the fraternal greetings and good-will of the American Federation of Labor in this great humane work you are undertaking and assure you, on behalf of the American Federation of Labor, of our continued encouragement and support to the great purposes towards which your movement has been dedicated.

Perhaps I take somewhat of a personal delight in extending these greetings and conveying this encouragement and support to you, by reason of the fact that it was myself who originally introduced the problem before the American Federation of Labor and secured its endorsement and cooperation.

But the work of recreation and the development of playgrounds, their facilities and opportunities, is a great work, more needed today than ever before. As a nation, we have done considerable in the development of a sound mind and a sound body. Our educational institutions throughout the land are a great testimonial to that fact. Our schools, colleges and universities are not only seeking to develop a great and sound mind but, likewise, a sound body.

While that is true, unfortunately we have been negligent in trying to carry on those principles after the youth of the land has left the educational institutions and enters the economic world, the industrial and commercial fields of endeavor. From that moment on, it seems that we neglect or we lose sight of the great principles that we advocate and promote in our educational institutions.

Unfortunately, our industrial life today is dominated altogether by the materialistic spirit of production, of work and more work, giving little attention to the development of the human body, the human mind or the spirit of life. All that we hear of in industry today is production, more pro-

duction and constantly more production. The human factor in industry is not considered as a human factor at all. It is considered as a natural power on a par with electricity and steam, and to be bought and sold as a commodity; and all of the finer elements of life, all of the finer human qualities of life are entirely ignored in the relationship that prevails in our industrial and in our commercial life. And by reason of that and the great development of our mechanical devices and the harnessing of the great natural forces to those mechanical devices, we find that labor is constantly becoming more mechanicalized day in and day out.

With our great developments in industry, the individual wage-earner counts for less each succeeding day and each succeeding year. That which was a pleasure to do some years ago, today becomes monotonous and almost a human tragedy. Men are harnessed to great machines and individuality is lost. Automatic employment is gaining headway everywhere and all incentive to labor and enjoyment of labor is being removed. Because of that, there is great need for increased leisure time as well as there is for the proper and intelligent use of that leisure time. And your Association, in that field of endeavor, is accomplishing a great and a most needed thing.

Leaving quite aside the question of the relation of labor in industry and the dehumanizing effect that is going on within industry, there is this further consideration and tendency within our social life. That is, through our methods of entertainment we are losing that great fraternal spirit, the opportunities for that great social development among the people generally. Again, in this field, your Association has a fitting place and can accomplish many helpful results.

As is well known to you, of course, the labor movement of America has been engaged for years in the struggle for greater leisure time, believing that the wage-earner should secure not only a fair reward for the services he contributes to society, but in order that he may enjoy the great gifts of God fully, that greater leisure time must be accorded him. And hence our struggle for the con-

<sup>\*</sup>Address given at the Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 17, 1924.

stant reduction of hours of service, hours of labor.

Too often is our activity in that field misunderstood by the public generally who believe that labor is only concerned with trying to loaf and just having time to while away. To the contrary, our thought has been to secure leisure time in order that we may avail ourselves of the very things that you are urging, in order that we may apply our endeavors in the direction to which you would have all peoples apply themselves.

In addition to that, we find, with the constant development of industry going on, through the mechanical improvements and the harnessing of forces that heretofore were unknown, production is gaining by leaps and bounds. Indeed, production is almost overlapping our ability to consume; and hence, there must be some restraining influence, some readjusting of the various factors of industry in order that they may go on indefinitely and permanently without destructive failure and bankruptcy.

But leaving that question, the American labor movement having analyzed and considered the work in which you are engaged, has most heartily and unreservedly pledged its support and encouragement to your undertaking. We realize the great opportunities there are for the development of recreational facilities, and, moreover, the application of the human mind and heart and body to those recreation centers being encouraged by you.

It is all very well to speak of your parks and beautiful playgrounds, but of what service are they if the great mass of the people are not able to enjoy them, if they are after all but beauty spots and beauty centers for the few and not for the many? And so the work must go beyond merely the buying of lands and the creating of parks and recreation grounds. It must, likewise, extend itself into opening opportunities for all peoples, high or low, to avail themselves of those varied facilities provided.

We are in thorough accord with your work, and in any way we can cooperate we shall be very happy and glad to do so. I am advised by the officers of your Association that during the past year many of our International Unions and many of our State Federations of Labor have opened their doors to speakers of your organization, that their addresses and the messages they have to convey were most cordially received, and that a

most helpful and encouraging response has been met.

Our relation in that field of endeavor is but a year old. Much has been accomplished within the one year's time. I hope that the coming year and the years to come will show even a closer relationship and mark even an ever-increasing progress in that direction.

Now, just a few reasons why we believe in your work might be summarized as follows:

1. It is fundamentally interested in human life, its conservation, enhancement, perfection and enrichment.

2. It is interested in human happiness.

3. It is interested in good citizenship.

4. It is interested in the welfare of boys and girls and knows that the right sort of play promotes their physical well-being, their mental growth and their character development.

5. Working conditions, though much improved, are marked by the prevalence of the automatic machine which calls for so little motion from the worker, and by the minute division of production processes which deprives the worker of creative satisfactions. Diseases which are on the increase in the United States are largely due to the sedentary life, the disuse of the larger muscles and, therefore, the reduction of lung and heart and nerve power. This situation can be dealt with through play—vigorous, satisfying and joy producing.

6. The need of self-expression by workers to satisfy deep hungers. Constructive recreation—physical, social, aesthetic—offers the means.

7. Organized labor has achieved larger leisure through its struggle for the shorter work day, and here lies its great opportunity for the broadening and enriching of life on all sides.

8. America is considered today the workshop of the world. If our people are not to become mechanized, we must likewise build up our recreation centers and socializing influences and make America the playground of the world.

9. America must reverse its present order of "live to work" to the more human philosophy of "work to live."

In that way alone true happiness can be attained. And in that work we gladly cooperate with you and extend to you every facility, every encouragement, every support of which we are capable and which lies within our power.



# Neighborhood Organization\*

By

C. E. BREWER

*Commissioner of Recreation, Detroit, Michigan*

In order to create a spirit of real neighborliness, to make personal contacts on the basis of mutual understanding, and to give the neighborhood an opportunity of self-expression, any recreation system is faced with a big problem. It is impossible to give the neighborhood the kind of recreation it needs without some form of organization. However, before the organization of the community begins, some preliminary steps must be taken. The first step is the selection of the right leader. He is often difficult to secure, but the right type of leader is more important than the form of organization.

The neighborhood recreation leader must first of all have the imagination which will enable him to visualize the possibilities of the work in the community. He must be a practical dreamer and a business-like idealist, paradoxical as that may sound. He must be a "jack-of-all-trades," and a master of each one. In order to be a vital force in the community, the recreation worker must have common sense, enthusiasm, patience, humility, tact and eternal perseverance. He must be courteous, alert, friendly, and be able to judge character, make decisions, and be firm in these decisions, yet yielding when necessary for the good of the community. He must have executive ability, a practical knowledge of the organization and administration of activities, should be able to multiply himself through volunteer leaders, and above all have a sense of humor. The sense of humor is the saving grace of recreation workers in many an embarrassing situation. No sane recreation executive would assign as a referee in a championship basketball game one who has never played basketball before, yet many recreation executives expect a worker to go out and organize a community without previous organization experience.

Before starting the organization work, the worker must determine what forms of recreation already exist in the community, how it is conducted, and what activities should be promoted

by him in order to give the community what it needs. It is a waste of time, money and energy, to organize and promote an activity the neighborhood does not care for. Furthermore, it is suicide to arouse the antagonism of any community organization by promoting a type of work which is already being well conducted by it. The recreation worker should assist and help such a group rather than attempt to duplicate its work.

All facts concerning the community life must be obtained and carefully analyzed and the decision made as to what activities should be promoted before the organization work in the community is started. In making this decision, do not forget that the important thing is to promote the kind of activity which will do the most good for the greatest number. Entirely too many failures have occurred through poor leadership, because the worker has functioned entirely independent of other community groups or has neglected to provide an adequate program which will attract and draw the people of the community to it. The recreation worker, whether an employee of the municipality or private organization, will allow existing groups to use the facilities provided, as groups, provided of course, the privilege of no one group will be permitted to interfere with other groups.

The neighborhood deciding upon organization must be large enough to have the inter-lacing interest which creates a neighborhood, and to maintain the activities to be organized, and yet should be small enough to have a community consciousness. Since the purpose of any neighborhood organization is the discovery by the neighborhood itself, of its recreation needs, and the meeting of these needs through neighborhood resources or the development of new facilities and activities, it is not possible or desirable to have a stereotyped form of organization for each community. The form of organization must be as simple as possible. Whatever the form, there will naturally develop a central body through which all work will clear. Therefore, the first step for the recreation worker in organizing the community, is the

\*Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, October 20, 1924

formation of this central or executive committee with himself as the important cog. It is not advisable to have himself elected the chairman or even secretary, but he should not allow the control of the organization to get out of his hands. The wise leader opens up opportunities for the individuals or groups to participate while seemingly exercising the least amount of control. He should multiply himself and work through individuals and not tie himself up with routine details.

The central committee should be democratic and designed to develop local leadership. There are two ways of organizing this central committee: the first is by calling a mass meeting, explaining the purpose of the meeting and outlining the activities. At this meeting select the central committee and immediately start activities, keeping them alive through publicity and spectacular stunts, and with the expenditure of a tremendous amount of time and energy on the part of the worker. The second way is to start with a smaller group of sincere and interested individuals and a limited number of activities. Do these well and as others become interested, broaden and enlarge the program, selecting only the interested and sincere ones for your group leaders. Gradually the entire community will be behind the whole program when they see what can be accomplished. The first method is much faster, grows quickly, but like all mushroom organizations expires readily, because no sincere community spirit has been developed. At the mass meeting the main offices go to the publicity seeker or the supposedly influential people in the community who have not the time or inclination to do any real constructive work, desiring only to bask in the light of the popularity of their office. Also, certain minorities will be offended that their candidates are not selected, for no influential man is without enemies in his own community, factions spring up and spoil the team-work so essential to any permanent neighborhood organization. Permanent changes or reforms are always of slow growth. Although the second method is slower, it is more efficient in the end, for by taking the few people vitally interested and a few activities and doing these few well, others will see what can be accomplished and will be more ready to assist when the opportune time comes to bring them into the organization to assist in the development of other activities or the formation of other committees.

These committees should be kept busy or the

members will soon lose interest and cease to function, and the work will slump. It is much better not to organize special committees at all than to let them die through lack of something to do. When the main activity has been organized, these special committees should be organized to handle groups, whose talents tend toward special activities, such as dramatics, musical groups, basketball teams, social dancing, community entertainments. These special groups can be used for the entertainment of the entire community on special occasions.

It is wise not to limit committee work to recreation alone, but great care must be exercised in organizing committees for other kinds of community work. All the people in the community are interested in recreation and it is the common ground on which the entire community can stand. It would be foolish for any recreation worker to jeopardize his work by sanctioning the organization of a committee to urge the granting of a franchise to the Gas Company, for example—even if there was a small majority in the community in favor of it. The big minority would look with disfavor upon the leader and would be alienated from the work. It is better for the leader to stick to a recreation program and mould public opinion as to what is best for the community, than to bite off more than he can chew. One failure counteracts several successful efforts.

It is essential that the worker keep closely in touch with his committee chairman and see that these committees function properly, although he should not "boss" the committee. He is a poor leader who attempts to dominate the group. The worker must also realize from the very beginning of his organization work that his work is in a field in which he cannot successfully operate independently. He must recognize that without the support of the community he cannot achieve full success, and that upon the utilization of all forces and the inter-weaving of their activities depends the efficiency of his work.

When several communities have been organized they can be welded into a city-wide organization and used very effectively for the promotion of an efficient recreation program for the entire city. They are a big support in putting across bond issues for the acquisition of additional recreational facilities; they can be effective in securing adequate appropriation and are strong bulwark when attempts are made to cut the budget.

# Problems of the Community Recreation System

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND WITH THE CITY\*

By

H. G. ROGERS

*Superintendent of Recreation, Knoxville, Tennessee*

The gospel of community recreation has spread over America like a great missionary movement. Its evangelists have been public-spirited and socially minded men and women who, having caught the gleam, were fired by the enthusiasm of service to mankind. The founders of the Playground and Recreation Association of America may not have fully comprehended the potential strength of the movement which they inaugurated, but they have, doubtless, witnessed the spread from city to city with increasing satisfaction. The members of this small group were like the modern broadcasting station in that they spread this gospel. They have been successful in getting thousands of individuals and hundreds of communities to tune in with this movement. The national organization has been the center, organizing, disseminating information, enlisting leadership, and sending out workers, leaders and advisors wherever there seemed to be an opportunity for local development. In this manner the *few* enlisted *many*. By demonstration, interpretation and practical results in many localities, the time has now come when thoughtful men and women in every part of the continent are ready to accept public recreation as something both useful, beneficial and necessary. They are willing to give their own services, their wealth and their consent to be taxed in order that community recreation shall be available for all.

In the local community, the history of recreational development is quite similar to that of the national organization. However, today there is more latent interest in recreation than in 1906. But even now, although there is this interest, an organizing genius is needed to promote the local organizations, to enlist public-spirited individuals, to assemble the community interests for the definite purpose of developing a recreational pro-

gram and the necessary facilities. This organizing genius may be a local citizen who is willing to give himself to the task or a paid trained worker brought in by an interested group, or a field representative of the national organization. We all know that an organization is necessary to promote community recreation, and that an organizer precedes successful organization.

The moment a local organization is anticipated the problem of recognition and of relationships with existing agencies in the given community confronts both the organizer and the organization. The experiences of the new agency are quite similar to that of the missionary in new fields where superstition, old traditions, prejudices, fear, misunderstanding, political intrigue and apathy are to be dealt with. To be halted by these lions on the highway is to lose heart and retreat. These lions are chained to rocky cliffs like those which Bunyan's Pilgrim encountered. They have been overcome in the many cities where community recreation has been definitely organized, and they can be conquered in other cities. Experience has taught us that if we use care in the creation of the organization and in the selection of the planks which constitute our program, we can advance with confidence.

## CHOOSE REAL LEADERS FOR THE COUNCIL

The local group which assumes responsibility for the promotion of community recreation, in order to gain recognition ought to be composed of representative, public-spirited citizens, who are recognized leaders in their professions, business and organization connections. A person who is in sympathy with our objectives and enlisted as an individual rather than elected as a delegate from an established agency, is of the greater value to us. If this same individual happens to be connected with other agencies, so much the better, but his selection as an interested person makes it

\*Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, October 20, 1924



possible for him to act upon his own initiative rather than upon the advice or action of the organization which he represents as an official delegate. It is needless to say that a group concerned in promoting community recreation should be representative of the diversified interests of that community.

In the second place, care should be exercised, it seems to me, in the determination of the program of activities to be undertaken by the local group. The entire list of possible activities will stagger the average citizen in the early stages of a local development. A study of the recreation needs and facilities will soon suggest those most apparent and most acceptable. Other activities may be added in due course of time. Beginning at the point of greatest need, we will have less criticism or opposition on the one hand, and a more hearty response on the other. Proceeding along this line we shall also be more likely to maintain the active interest of our own committee members, board of directors and the members of our associations.

To have relationships implies the existence of a definite organization with a definite program, for relationships do not exist between nonentities.

To seek working relations before there is an established organization may place us in the position of a beggar. Many of the problems arising in these relationships are due first to a lack of understanding as to the purpose and functions of the existing agencies and of the new agency seeking recognition and support. There is occasional fear that the new organization will subtract from the activities carried on by the older organizations, that financial support will be lessened, or that duplication will result. Because of this possible lack of understanding, or over-anxiety, I have suggested the necessity for a definite organization, representative and democratic, and the determination of a definite program of activities. Local identity will largely be created by and through the individuals forming the association, and the wisdom manifested in the selection of the initial activities for the organization's program.

#### GIVE SERVICE

The principle of addition is more gratifying than that of subtraction. Community recreation makes a contribution to each existing agency in our social order. If we can make this point evident to the agencies in our cities, we can solve whatever problems there may be arising from relationships with them. The remedial agencies

in the field of health and charity are quite willing for their burdens to be lightened through the measures of prevention applied in the recreation program. Not many juvenile courts will protest the reduction in the number of cases appearing each year. Few police officers will complain in the reduction of mischief and petty crimes committed on their beats. The Courts of domestic relations are glad to welcome anything that will assist in maintaining the home ties and the neighborhood spirit. So I do not expect ever to find any difficult relation with those social agencies involved in health, family case work or delinquency. Common objectives enlist cooperation.

Among the religious or semi-religious organizations, if I may so designate them, there is a possibility of misunderstanding. The fact that some of these organizations are doing something in the field of recreation has led some of their leaders to think that they are doing all that should be done in this field. If we can but point out that those activities which they are carrying on may be a part of the community recreation program, and that our organization can bring to them helpful suggestions, leadership and still larger opportunities, a spirit of cooperation should result.

Recreation to the religious organizations is one item in the list of their activities, and often a minor item, while in the community recreation movement it is the major item. The latter gains an experience and technique which may be helpful to the religious organizations. As the latter become acquainted with our services, may we not hope for a more cordial attitude? Proceeding along these lines in our own work, we have been able to render the following services: the program of volunteer leaders for social gatherings and picnics, Sunday afternoon and mid-week concerts by choirs and organists, Community Easter and Christmas observances, religious plays and pageants, special program materials for Sunday schools and young people's societies. As a result local pastors and church officers have given enthusiastic support to our community recreation program, because they have felt they were participating in that program.

The same principle has been applied to educational and cultural agencies such as the schools, Parent-Teacher Associations, literary and musical clubs. Playground demonstrations interested the school superintendent in physical education; Community "Fun Nites" aided the Parent-Teacher Association in building up a community interest in the schools. Our local musical clubs, for years

self-centered, were interested in finding a way of serving the public, by bringing artists for concerts, by rendering concerts themselves, and by the promotion of the Music Memory Contest and participation in Music Week. A general public appreciation of music, which they long prayed for, has come; they feel they had a hand in bringing it about and we added to our community recreational program both new activities and the friendship of these organizations.

#### HAPPY RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL PRESS

Local newspapers may be valuable friends or formidable opponents in the development of a recreation program. Generally speaking the newspaper is interested in promoting community improvements. Parks and playgrounds are quickly seized upon as definite planks in the platform of the press. It so happens in Knoxville there are three papers, different in politics and policies, yet all three are strongly advocating more parks and playgrounds, and one is raising a fund for a new park. Three years ago one of these papers advocated the sale of properties owned by the city and called playgrounds, because without supervision and direction they had become nuisances. When the outline of a community recreation program was presented, the editor manifested much misgiving but agreed to have an open mind until a demonstration could be made. We were able in the meantime to proceed with our various features, and came to the Christmas season, when we were informed that this paper had conducted an empty stocking fund for several years. The Community Christmas tree was proposed and accepted, the editor from that time on has shown an interest in the community recreation program, for each Christmas he makes a contribution to it. His interest has been extended to cover parks and neighborhood centers. Another of our local papers was anxious to promote horseshoe pitching. The Community Service Council furnished the agent. When the tournament was completed, the editor asked what was the greatest need from the standpoint of recreation—we replied—"a big city park." Since that time this paper has been raising a fund through birthday contributions, with the view of purchasing that big park. The third paper sponsored the music memory contest for the first year. Editorially these three papers are now staunch supporters of our private organization and municipal bureau.

Another policy which I have found very helpful in maintaining relationship with the press, has been in giving the reporters attention, assisting them in the stories, even going so far as to write some of them for the new reporters unfamiliar with our work. By taking them into confidence in discussing aims and objectives they have been given a background for the writing of the news stories which has been most beneficial.

The hope of the private group promoting recreation is that sooner or later the whole program will be placed on a tax supported basis. But preceding governmental operation private initiative is often needed to create public sentiment, carry on experiments and develop leadership. However, after the municipality assumes the responsibilities for all recreational activities, there is still need of the group of citizens who will act as an advisory body, linking the government with the people of the neighborhoods.

When the city officials are friendly to community recreation the private group can render a great service, as indicated, and continue to enrich the program and extend the activities. When the administration is not so friendly, the private group can insist upon adequate attention by arousing public sentiment, for the politician and officer holder is generally willing to listen to the wishes of his constituency. The private group can more effectively handle the matter of acquiring new properties for park purposes. It is a service relationship again.

The suggestions that I may make with reference to the problems of relations rather than discussing the problems at length, are as follows:

#### *Create an Understanding*

1. Endeavor to establish a strong, representative organization.
2. As early as possible determine upon a few major activities that meet the most urgent needs of the locality. Add new activities, as new needs and new responses come. Have something accomplished to point to.

#### *Create Friendship through Service*

3. Offer service as you invite the existing agencies to join in the big community wide program of recreation. Give credit to the good work these agencies accomplish.
4. Offer new opportunities for old organizations through volunteer service and training courses.

## Modern Community House Fills Important Need in Western Lumber Center

By

MAX SOMMERS

The important role that may be assumed by a modern community house is being exemplified daily in the little industrial city of Longview, Washington, the model milling town recently established on the north side of the Columbia River in southwestern Washington. Here the Long-Bell Lumber Company operates an immense industry in lumber manufacture in a pre-planned town of more than 5000 inhabitants, laid out so as to provide the most attractive environment possible for the company's several thousand mill workers.

The community house, a two-story structure of stucco over brick, in old English style and trimmed in half timbers with log gables over the main entrance, has become the center of civic and athletic interest to nearly every individual in the town. The building provides a large auditorium with balcony, gymnasium, swimming pool, bowling alleys, reading and writing rooms, class rooms, banquet and special entertainment facilities including an up-to-date kitchen, and an attractive interior decorating scheme. Here the physical director in charge and his assistants are kept busy at all times helping half a thousand children of the company's employees or throngs of the mill workers themselves to get the most out of life in the way of physical exercise and recreation or in the development of mental and civic interests. Not only employees of the lumber company, but all residents of the city are encouraged to take full advantage of all facilities offered by the community house, and the great number of club meetings, social functions, and physical training classes claiming their place in the building, together with the regular movie and lecture audiences that fill the auditorium on occasions have proved that the company planned its city most opportunely when it remembered to include this community house.

The auditorium seats nearly 800, has a fully equipped stage providing for a large pipe organ, and its entrance lobby is completely equipped with a projection booth for two motion picture machines. The dimensions of the auditorium are 50



COMMUNITY HOUSE, LONGVIEW, WASH.

by 113 feet with a general ceiling height of 30 feet.

The work of the physical training department is divided in four departments, one each for men, women, boys and girls. Pursuant to this plan of operation, the gymnasium, bowling alley, and swimming pool are so arranged that by locking the doors from each of the other departments the

*(Continued on page 347)*

Recreation, in its best and most wholesome sense, is nowadays becoming an increasingly important interest in the lives of most people. Vigorous, clean, honest sport is only less important than earnest, productive, useful and happy work. The efficiency of production effort is bound to depend largely upon a properly balanced measure of recreation. More and better work will be accomplished where it is accompanied by more and better play.

The modern world has recognized the right of all the people to their fair share in the relaxations and pleasures that once were the privilege of the fortunate few. Where once the beauty centers of cities were the walled and luxuriant private gardens that only wealth and fashion might enter, now the pride of every progressive city is its system of great, open, free parks for the enjoyment of all its people. If you turn to the country you find a similar development. Instead of hunting preserves, shooting boxes and great private forests we find national and state forests, national and state parks, splendid scenic reservations where nature's beauties are conserved and enhanced. Private highways are well-nigh unknown, but splendid modern roads, open to everybody, extend their invitation to the traveler, the seeker for rest, the lover of out-door recreation.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE

At the President's Conference on Outdoor Recreation, October 8, 1924



## Recreation in Smith Centre, Kansas

By

SCHUYLER C. STEVENS

Smith Centre and the town of Gaylord joined forces and a number of private citizens of both towns formed a partnership and bought fifty acres of land on the Solomon River where there was an old mill dam.

We bought the place for five thousand dollars and have spent twenty thousand dollars rebuilding the dam, building dressing booths, check stands, bridges, swimming pool with the natural waterfall above it, a thousand dollars' worth of walks and driveways, twenty acres of fine natural timber and hundreds of square yards of sand beaches, beautiful shady pools and clear running water in sand for the small children's playgrounds. We have free golf, tennis, boating, fishing and a small charge for bathing if the bather has his own suit.

A thousand tons of good ice is stored for sale cheap and the whole community has this reservation for a playground. We employ two men and a woman there to look after the people.

This big park is never closed. It is open all the year for every person that wishes to play. We have a ski path down a five hundred foot bluff and skating, two miles of it in the winter as well as all kinds of camping and outing. Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls and women's and girl's and boys' clubs from all this part of Kansas come there to play.

The public schools from seven different towns have their school picnic evenings in the summer time and skating parties in the winter.

The sale of ice pays all the expenses and the salary of fifteen hundred dollars we pay the manager and his assistants.

The children from this town and Gaylord are taken care of one day in every week by the different church societies and the playground is looked after by them for the very small children one day in every week throughout the whole summer.

We have not put in any swings or teeter boards as the natural water, sand and woods take up all the time for play.

Hundreds of parents take their children there almost daily for play and picnics and hundreds of old people play there with all the rest. This is called the greatest playground in Kansas.

## Greenville's Phillis Wheatley Center

On January 1, 1925, the Phillis Wheatley Center, established for the use of negro citizens of Greenville, South Carolina, opened its doors. A cooperative project promoted jointly by white and negro citizens, it is meeting a long felt need and is unique as the only project of its kind in the South.

The center has three floors. The ground floor, designed for the men's work, has one office, two club rooms, a play room, three showers and a bath with toilet. On the second floor are a front room, a library, a kitchen, a large club room, an office, a rest room, a day nursery, three showers and toilets. The third floor is entirely taken up by the auditorium, which may also be used as a gymnasium. It is equipped for moving pictures and has dressing rooms and a stage with footlights and arc lights.

Sixteen thousand visits were made to the center and its classes in the first two months of its existence. Among its activities are a day nursery, a rest room for the wives and daughters of Greenville County farmers, classes in cooking, sewing, first aid and nursing, a night school for adults, a summer school for children, manual training classes, health examinations, athletic classes and sports, suppers for teachers and parents, dinners for parents and children, hikes and parties, bands, orchestras, sight reading singing, moving pictures, lectures, concerts and storytelling. The center serves as the meeting place for the Ministerial Union, County Teachers' Association and similar groups. The colored branch of the county library is housed at the center.

The proposed budget for 1925 is placed at \$10,000. Of this amount the negro citizens plan to raise \$5,000.

Mrs. Hattie Duckett is director of the center, assisted by three paid workers and fifteen volunteers.

### Beauty

The world may be ugly.  
Search widely enough, deep enough, high enough  
And beauty is revealed.

Man can train himself to see beauty, even to create beauty.

Havelock Ellis has said, "The number of points at which one has been able to reveal beauty, to create beauty is the measure of one's success in living."

## Donating Playgrounds as a Play Activity

Because Nathan D. Bill has formed the habit of donating playgrounds to the city of Springfield, Mass., and because the boys and girls of that city are now enjoying five playgrounds which Mr. Bill himself has given to them, Joseph Lee, President of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, asked Mr. Bill (who is an Honorary Member of the Association) if he would not be willing at the Recreation Congress at Asheville, N. C., to tell just why he has had so much pleasure in making these gifts. We wish to share Mr. Bill's letter with the men and women who are interested in the boys and girls in other cities.

"Dear Mr. Lee:—

"I have returned from Florida, where we spent the winter, and found your letters and reports awaiting me.

"You and your Association are doing a splendid work and I am proud of you and the push you put into it.

"Regarding going to Asheville next October: I cannot tell at this writing whether I could attend the Congress, but I am not a public speaker and even if able to go would not care to deliver an address.

"When I was a boy there were plenty of vacant lots and places where we children could play.

"As the city grew and every lot was taken up and built upon, there was no place for the children to play but the street with all its dangers.

"If they went into someone's back yard, mother was almost sure to come out and say, 'Now, you children, get out of here, you will break a window and are spoiling the grass.'

"Poor things; nowhere to go to enjoy and exercise that inalienable right that all children possess, the right to wholesome recreation and play. That was the inspiration for the first playground gift and its wonderful utilizations and success was sufficient inspiration for the additional gifts.

"Pretty big dividends I get when I go to a playground and see hundreds and thousands of children and youth, enjoying themselves in a most wholesome and rational way to the full and knowing that it is all theirs so long as they behave themselves.

"Sincerely yours,

(Signed) "NATHAN D. BILL."

## Canada's Community Halls

Assistance to rural communities in establishing community halls and athletic fields is provided by the Community Halls Act, 1920, by the terms of which the Provincial Government will give to any rural community wishing to establish such facilities a grant amounting to 25% of the cost, no grant, however, to exceed the sum of \$2,000.

It is required by the regulations made in accordance with the Act that every hall shall include an assembly room with movable seats, stage and such other equipment as may be approved by the Minister of Agriculture. It shall also include accommodation for a library and reading room where required by the Minister. It is intended that these halls shall be available for all gatherings and meetings of a community nature and for the use of all the people.

While athletic fields only may be established in communities under this act, it is intended that there shall be in connection with every community hall an athletic field, unless, in the opinion of the Minister of Agriculture, adequate accommodation for recreation purposes is otherwise provided.

Every community hall and athletic field established under this Act shall be under the direction and control of the Board of Management appointed by the Council of the municipality. In territory without municipal organization a community hall or athletic field may be established with the approval of the Minister by a Board of Public School Trustees. In such case, the property shall be vested in the Board of School Trustees and the grant may be payable to the trustees.

The Bulletin—No. 279—published by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, which contains the provisions of the Act, also gives suggested plans for community halls.

A State Recreation Commission has been appointed by Governor Pierce of the State of Oregon. The members of the Commission are:

John C. Henderson, Portland, Director Community Service

W. A. Kearns, Athletic Director at Oregon Agricultural College

John F. Bovard, University of Oregon

O. A. Kratz, City Manager of Astoria

Fred Kiddle, Island City, Past Commander State Department American Legion

Miss Carin Degermark

Marshall Dana, of Portland

## Generous Bequest Takes Tangible Form

A contract of \$60,000 has recently been let for the grading and construction work in connection with Shedd Playground in Lowell, Mass. There are several items which will be done under separate contracts, bringing the total up to approximately \$100,000, the amount included in the Shedd bequest for this purpose.

The plans and specifications for this work have been prepared by Robert Washburn Beal, landscape architect, Boston, and include a quarter-mile running track with an interior oval on which two baseball diamonds and two football gridirons will be superimposed. There is also included a wading pool, which has an interior section of a depth sufficient to allow for swimming instruction for boys and girls. There will be an outdoor theatre, which, when finally developed, will have a capacity of about 2,500 people, but for the present only about 1,500 seats will be provided. This theatre is located on a side hill on the cross axis of the wading pool and athletic field, so that it will overlook the whole area. A portable moving picture screen will be erected near the wading pool and motion pictures will be exhibited at frequent intervals in the summer time. There is also an ideal area for the production of outdoor plays or large outdoor athletic or military exhibitions.

There will be a separate field, which will be especially set apart for the use of girls. It will be large enough for field hockey or other such games. Six new tennis courts will be provided and the two existing ones will be resurfaced and enclosed with proper fencing, so that they will be much more suitable for use.

A natural area to the south of the athletic field will be retained as a picnic grove and below that at the low point of the area, a natural pond will be created with an island in the center and bridges leading from it to the mainland. To the west of the athletic field and behind the outdoor theatre, there is a large area which will be greatly improved by the addition of much new planting and one large section will be developed as a rock garden. There is a large amount of rock on the field that must be taken care of in the grading work, and the rock garden

seemed an admirable way to take care of it. When this is finally developed it will be one of the features of the parks of Lowell.

There is a small children's playground, which will have a little pool and shelter of its own, located near the field house. The field house, which is the keynote of the scheme, is located adjacent to the athletic field on the axis of the wading pool and at right angles to the outdoor theatre. This will be approached from Rogers Street and will have a large piazza and band porch on the rear, from which concerts can be given and where people can sit and look over the entire playground. It is proposed, if possible, to make this house a community house for that section of the city which will be used in winter as well as in summer. The athletic field will be arranged for flooding for skating and the field house will serve admirably as shelter to go with it. A large main room will enable the Park Commission to arrange a winter program of entertainments consisting of dances, motion pictures and athletic contests, if they so desire. Although the construction of this building is not included in the present program, it is believed that when the development of the outdoor areas are finished, funds will become available for this part of the project.

The completed plan for the area, comprising in all fifty-six acres, will give the city of Lowell an unusually fine combined park and playground.

Charles H. Hunt, Director of Physical Education, Long Beach, California, City Schools, writes that this year the School Department is taking over the summer recreation work, using school funds, equipment and personnel. There will be sixteen playgrounds and swimming, music and dramatic centers.



STEPPING LIVELY ON THE PLAYGROUNDS AT LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA



## Play Day at Cassellton

There are about 900 people in Cassellton, North Dakota. Six years ago the County Superintendent of Schools introduced the countryside to a day known as Play Day. At first the local Cassellton schools observed the day, to be followed little by little until all of the sixteen districts in the county have come to observe this event as unfaillingly as Christmas.

A stranger alighting from the train at the depot would notice early in the morning the business folks decorating their store fronts, boys and girls hurrying here and there, and the town getting ready for a holiday. By ten in the morning the street curbs are well lined with cars of all sizes, all in from the country districts with their loads of children. Picnic baskets filled with good things there are in plenty. The day starts off with the regular program of track and field events for boys and girls of all ages. Local townsmen are wearing badges.

There is no regular athletic field in the town, but an open field back of the South Side School serves the purpose. During the morning the athletic events are run off, with fathers and mothers, sisters, brothers and friends rooting for their favorite school entrants.

Then lunch is spread on the grass for little group parties. Ice cream and soda vendors do a brisk business. The town's "Main Street" is a good-natured jam. Everyone knows each other's first name. As one farmer said when asked how he felt about leaving his farm work on such a fine day just to come and play, "This is good. Work will keep till another day."

Shortly after lunch a band from Fargo comes on the ground and livens up the already spirited crowd. Something big seems to be coming. Children are gathering from all directions wearing tissue costumes. The answer is—a pageant!

Professor Arvold of the State Agricultural College and Miss Evingson, County Superintendent of Schools, have everything ready. The band mounts the stands; the grounds are cleared and everyone crowds behind the ropes. There are 5,000 people behind these ropes, and this in the open country! The stage with a large screen picture representing an old-fashioned cottage is set against a background of poplars just coming into full life. On either side of the stage setting are bleacher seats, row upon row, for the 1300 children who are to be in the pageant.

And the pageant was well worth coming fifty miles to see! The Kingdom of Flowers, full of color and beauty and woven through it music, dances and Maypoles. And at the end the singing of *America*, and *America the Beautiful* by 1300 children.

## A Credit Schedule

The following sample of a playground card for boys over twelve comes from Community Service of Grand Junction, Colorado, where a similar card will be provided for smaller children and another for girls over twelve:

### *Physical Credits*

1. Pass Athletic Badge Test
2. Pass one Physical Ability Test
3. Swim two different strokes
4. Play two team games well
5. Show proficiency in paddle tennis
6. Take part in contest between playgrounds

### *Educational Credits*

7. Read a good boy's magazine
8. Read a good book
9. Take Nature Study hike
10. Cook meal on hike
11. Collect thirty nature specimens
12. Take trip through a manufacturing plant
13. Take part in playground entertainment
14. Make an article in handicraft, taking at least two hours
15. Make two good paintings or drawings

### *Social Credits*

16. Keep clean all week
17. Have good behaviour for week
18. Perfect sportmanship for week
19. Bring two new children to the playground
20. Play in playground orchestra
21. Demonstrate five first aid methods

### *Service Credits*

22. Do five good turns on playground
23. Do all home duties for week faithfully and cheerfully
24. Do ten hours' home work, such as cleaning yard, house
25. Make your own bed for a week

# Rushville and Schuyler County Study and Recommendations

The request for a recreation specialist familiar with the problems of small city and rural life to study the situation in Rushville and make recommendations as to a possible program came to the Playground and Recreation Association of America at the suggestion of Maurice Willows after consultation with the Rushville Park Board.

The Association assigned the task to John Bradford who spent a week in Rushville in December and returned from February 16th to March 11th, 1925.

The results of this study are given as follows:

1. The place of organized recreation, under qualified leadership is so well known today that the detailed reasons are unnecessary to state in this report.

For many years the larger cities have been giving an increasing amount of thought, attention and financial support to the development of year-round recreation systems planned to meet the needs of all ages and classes of their population.

More recently the smaller cities and some rural sections have become interested in this development, as the conviction has been growing that organized recreation and qualified leadership are as necessary for the smaller city and the open country as for the larger centers.

The argument that people in the open country get enough exercise from their work is met with the recognition not only of the fact that they do get such exercise but that oftentimes this exercise being the result of the manual labor performed brings with it such severe strain that it develops certain physical defects which make necessary corrective exercises and forms of relaxation in the nature of games and play.

Again recreation is not only physical but cultural as well and this aspect of the program is needed by all citizens and everywhere.

The monotony of much of the continuous toil in the open country together with the lack of sufficient social contacts of a general and cooperative nature which are needed in the development of satisfactory conditions of social wellbeing makes a recreation program important.

In the small city there is the lack of specialized leadership in the development and direction in the field of spare time activities with the result that

many groups are overlooked and a type of social organization developed which hinders the normal development of neighborliness and friendliness so essential to satisfactory living.

While the average small city high school program is designed to provide for the all-round development of its students in the fields of music, dramatics, athletics, as a rule only a part of the student body is reached and oftentimes the needs of the girl students in physical education and active recreation are neglected entirely.

The children of the grade schools both in the city and open country have, oftentimes, no adequate program, largely because of the lack of any trained leadership.

The program of work recommended covers the following groups:—

1. Play of children
2. Recreation for young people and adults
3. A city program
4. A program for the open country

The golf club is admirably administered and in the hands of an able committee and a competent professional.

## 1. *Play of Children*

A continuous and adequate program of health education and organized play is greatly needed for all grade school children to demonstrate what trained leadership could do in the way of assisting the teaching staff of the city and county schools and also the type of free play being adopted today in all parts of the country. To help start provision for these needs Saturday Institutes were held at Scripps Park.

A greater contribution could be made to the child life through the one moving picture theatre by the holding in the winter of special children's performances with suitable pictures on Saturday mornings. This is being done, under the auspices of the Women's Clubs in many cities.

Summer supervision on the playground at Webster School as well as at the Scripps Park grounds would be of great value.

Gardening by children should have a large place in Rushville. All the conditions lend themselves to this activity, which is of untold benefit to the growing child.

## 2. Recreation for Young People

There is great need of a comprehensive program of activities of an athletic, cultural and social and educational nature for the upwards of 250 young people over high school age in the city and vicinity. Meetings held with representative young people and the demonstration evenings have shown the need and have brought out the fact that the best of cooperation would be given to a leader by the young men and young women. The program could best be developed through a central council representing the young people's organizations of the various churches and planned to include all young people within a seven or eight mile circle of Rushville.

## 3. Adult Recreation

The Thursday Institutes for adults have amply proved that there is a need for wholesome recreation and play on the part of adults as well as other groups and that a hearty response would be given to the development of a program of activities by this group.

The facilities at Scripps Park can easily be extended to care for a much wider range of activities than at present carried on at this beautiful spot and would meet a very great need in the lives of people in the open country as well as of those living in the city.

If the plan for the proposed new auditorium and gymnasium at the high school is carried through this new unit will be a great asset in the development of a recreation program for adults.

## 4. A City Program

This should include regular celebrations of such holidays as Christmas (as at present provided for) Hallowe'en, Fourth of July, and other holidays and should include the development of pageantry, both religious and historical.

There should also be developed an annual "Rushville Day" when the city would hold open house for those in its trading area.

A city band, choral society, orchestras are possibilities while park and street beautification should be included in a city program together with the planting of flowering shrubs along all main highway approaches to the city—good publicity and good business.

## 5. Rural Recreation

The finding and training of leadership for a program of recreation for the rural population

who use Rushville as a trading center would be the best investment which the city could make. As good roads increase there will be competition for the trade of these people, who with automobiles and good roads can as easily trade elsewhere. To cultivate good will through extending the program of recreation and through the wider use of the Virginia and Scripps Park as a center for meetings of all agencies in the county interested in rural betterment would seem a reasonable plan, and again good business.

## Recommendations

1. No development of a program to meet the needs of the city and surrounding country is possible without the provision of qualified leadership; the first recommendation is therefore that a trained leader be secured as soon as possible.

2. That a county recreation bureau be formed to include the following:

Chairman of the Park Board

County Superintendent of schools and one member of Board

City Superintendent of school and one member of Board

Farm Bureau advisor and one member of Executive Committee of Bureau

Representative of County Sunday School Association

Representative Household Science club of County

Representative County Health Board

3. That an additional budget be provided

4. Program of health and physical education for high school girls

5. Program of health and recreation and play activities for grade schools in city

6. Program of health, recreation and play for county schools

7. Church recreation program through training of leadership among young people and adults

8. Holding of annual recreation institutes for city and rural teachers and leaders

9. Farmers short courses, picnics, field days at Scripps Park

10. Annual picnics for all city and county Sunday schools at the Park

11. Half holiday for rural workers weekly in summer with program of baseball, athletics, at the field in the Park

12. That the facilities of the Virginia and Scripps Park be extended without charge for the following:—



Farm Bureau meetings  
 County Teachers' Institutes  
 County Sunday School Institutes  
 Farmers' short courses in winter under Farm Bureau

Cooperative rural Boys' and Girls' Club activities under Farm Bureau

Meetings County Household Science organization of Farm Bureau

Annual rural school field day and picnic

Annual Sunday school and Farmers' picnics

Annual high school field day

Annual recreation institutes

Community recreation nights of community wide character

Annual May Day Festival for school children (Health pageant)

County wide get togethers of a booster nature

Practically all of these are held at times when no other use is made of the facilities at the Park.

#### *Additional Equipment Needed*

1. Bleachers for athletics field
2. Construction of baseball diamond
3. A cabin in one of the groves for Scout activities and Boys' club work
4. Eventually a swimming pool which would be a great asset during the long hot summer
5. Outdoor fire places built in the groves
6. A bowling green which would be greatly appreciated by men in middle life and beyond
7. Lighting of one tennis court for evening playing, with additional courts
8. Some horeshoe pitches
9. A croquet lawn

#### *Recommended to Be Discontinued*

Sunday morning caddying

The closed days at the Virginia

All of the above would come as a gradual development upon the securing of a trained leader and have been included in some detail as an indication of the possibilities of the use of Scripps Park and its facilities.

With such development it is only a question of time when the major part of the support for the work can under the State law come from County and City tax funds and in cooperation financially with the City and County School authorities.

Without such leadership and gradual extending program of service it is the conviction of the recreation specialist that the maintenance of the Park will grow exceedingly difficult, this opinion being based upon a wide experience in community building projects.

## Sports and Morals

The world of sports will save modern civilization from the luxury and immorality which swept the Roman Empire to oblivion, delegates to the International Council of Women convention predicted today.

Led by Lady Eve Trustram, British delegate, women from all countries pointed to the universal growth of sports as the principal reason why the world would not go to smash on a wave of post-war immorality.

"All of the great civilizations of the past were destroyed because the people broke down their bodies by dissipation. Ours should endure because of the universal interest in boxing, swimming, football, baseball, cricket and all of youth's other forms of recreation," Lady Eve said.

"The great war let down the bars and the world temporarily lost its morality. Already our civilization is menaced by the weakening of religion, but the growing popularity of sports is the great bulwark against a final smash.

"Sports encourage discipline and strengthen the body. Men and women who excel in sports don't dissipate, as a rule, and serve as striking examples of the value of moderation."

Because of the increasing millions who are swelling the ranks of the sports world each year, Lady Eve said she thought in time the whole world would play similar games, and through personal contacts present racial prejudice would be minimized.

"World morals are not better now than several years ago, but they are no worse and that is why there is hope, because each year countless millions of children are encouraged to play games by parents who formerly disapproved."

(From the May 9th issue of *Washington, D. C., Times*.)

People do not ask big things of dying individuals or organizations.

—ANNA GARLIN SPENCER.

# A Health Clinic That Prescribes Recreation

By

WEAVER PANGBURN

A "health client" was being advised by the recreation specialist of New York's Health Service Clinic, and he was a much embarrassed man. Accustomed to feeling that he was a rather robust specimen, still young at forty, it was humiliating to be told he had something to learn about keeping well.

"What's this I see?" said the recreation man, looking at the "patient's" clinical record. "A chest expansion of only one inch! Why, it ought to be three or four inches. You are growing old before your time. While it is true that your examination shows no organic difficulty of any account, it is evident that you have something to learn about exercise and play."

The recreation consultant, J. H. Melville, then outlined a program of recreation suited to the occupation and age of the client. More than that, he invited him to the next hike on the clinic's program, for the New York Health Service Clinic is unique in that it not only prescribes recreation as a part of its "stay well program" but actually conducts some of the recreation activities it prescribes.

## MEDICINE PLUS PLAY

The Health Service Clinic was organized at the New York Post-Graduate School and Hospital in January, 1925, and was described in the press as a practical application of "prophetic medicine." The clinic is for well people of moderate circumstances who wish to prevent disease and continue well. In it, Dr. C. Ward Crampton, director of the clinic, sees a fruition of ideas he has long advocated as to the essential unity of the work of the doctor, a specialist in disease, and the work of the recreation man, a specialist in the life more abundant. For on the clinic staff, recreation man, physical educator and a medical doctor have equal rank and equal importance.

"Physical training, recreation and medicine are now integrated," says Dr. Crampton. "It is what physical educators have been talking about for twenty-five years, but never before have got the

medical profession to accept." Dr. Crampton is both physical educator and physician, and is thus on both sides of the fence. He is now engaged in tearing down the fence.

"There is a great therapeutic value in golf, in smiling twice a day, and in being kind to your wife," he says. "The new emphasis in prophetic medicine means the handling of human life rather than giving pills. We want the medical man to be a specialist not only in disease but also in health."

## THE CLINIC IS POPULAR

The clinic has had capacity use, more than four hundred men and women having already received a thorough scientific examination, instruction in exercise and recreation, and the friendly interest of the staff. Each client brings to the clinic a health survey covering heredity, a record of previous illnesses, and habits of living including diet, exercise, recreation, work, rest and sleep. The client makes his own survey—"A frank personal impression of myself"—on a cleverly devised booklet. A sample of the details which the client is asked to underscore is as follows:

"Customarily I am quite rugged—Very strong—Fairly strong—A little weak—Tire easily—Very weak. In my work I am successful—Doing well—Holding my own—Indifferently well—Unsuccessful. I worry about my work, however—A great deal—Somewhat—Don't give it a thought at night. My work is administrative—Professional—Clerical—Specifically."

These facts are considered in conjunction with the results of urinalysis and intestinal function tests when the health client reports for his examination. Various measurements, which reveal handicaps and deficiencies are taken. Organic tests are made to discover any failure of service that will prejudice health or diminish vigor. A search is made throughout the body to see if there are present any signs of deterioration or disease past, present or future. In all, sixty-two records are taken in the course of the examination.

The health client is then given a summary of his examination and his prescription of diet, exercise (which is taught him at the Health Clinic), and other matters of importance to him. This is in the form of a Health Book which is taken home for reference. In this, he records his progress and improvement, until he comes again at the end of a year or six months if necessary. If any matter requiring medical attention is found, the health client is put in the way of receiving proper treatment.

#### TO LENGTHEN AND ENRICH LIFE

The Health Clinic also serves as a training school for physicians who wish to perfect themselves in this department of medicine. It will serve as a demonstration center to aid other hospitals to initiate a similar service, and will conduct research in the field of preclinical medicine and positive health.

It is the hope of the clinic to increase the length of life ten years. Steady lengthening of life in recent decades has been due primarily to preventive medicine among children. The Health Service Clinic is taking up the program among adults on the theory that men are seldom in as good condition as their heredity and circumstances warrant. They are usually capable of being made much more vigorous, buoyant and efficient, and may be given a better expectation of long life by the application of a few of the results of medical research to their lives.

Recreation interests in life may be gained in very simple ways, Mr. Melville points out. For instance, a person walking to work each day can find new interests by following a different route each time. One individual was told to change his route and each time to find something new in the store windows as he passed by. Worry, the bane of so many lives, may be banished by play, by restoration of the family dinner table, by the family fireside, and even by family prayers, according to Dr. Crampton.

This unusual clinic, by linking play prescription with medical advice, is seeking to prolong and enrich life. It seeks to unearth the worry—and work—encrusted spirit of play, that men and women may live long and abundantly.

## Play and Health

A short time ago, commenting on the annual report of the P. R. A. A., a worker in one of the health organizations wrote Joseph Lee suggesting that the P. R. A. A. should perhaps be doing more to promote health.

This is typical of the questions which have been raised by a number of friends of the Association. Mr. Lee's reply to the suggestion was as follows:

"Of course child health is one of the great things to be sought, but I don't think it ought ever to be made primary by our Association. Because for us health is not an end but a by-product. The end is play, and even that is not quite the end. The real end is the service of the play spirit. That is the way the child feels it. He is not seeking health and not seeking self-expression, not even seeking play. He is seeking something that comes to him from a spirit bigger than he is, to which he gives himself. It is like giving yourself to the river and letting it carry you. It is service to the elder gods—trus persona, as I believe, of whatever God there be—the gods of beauty and discovery and sport, for the latter of which there is no name. The attitude is one of giving your life, not of seeking it, and I think that is the attitude which on the whole brings health."

**Food for Thought for the Recreation Worker.**—Warden Lewis E. Lawes, of Sing Sing Prison, gives ten principal reasons why young men become criminals:

First, heredity; second, improper home training; third, inadequate schooling; fourth, insufficient recreation; fifth, gambling; sixth, bad company; seventh, liquor and drugs; eighth, false pride; ninth, disrespect for law; tenth, high cost of living.

City Judge Charles W. Boote, of Yonkers, names the reasons why delinquency is on the increase among girls:

First, improper home atmosphere; second, no religious training; third, automobile riding; fourth, love of luxury; fifth, liquor; sixth, movies of wrong type; seventh, sex modesty; eighth, boys with too much money; ninth, immodest dancing; tenth, trashy novels.

The fundamental need in American life is to escape the drabness of our civilization.

—HERBERT HOOVER.



## "Our Platform"

The boys of the Down Town Boys' Club of Newark, New Jersey, not only held a presidential election and voted for their favorite nominees, but also voted on a number of questions of interest to them. The problems and the platform planks which the boys adopted relative to them are as follows:

1. There are seventy thousand boys in Newark and One Public Swimming Pool for them to exercise in, learn to swim, play and practice life-saving methods.

*Our Platform*—A Public Swimming Pool, open all the year, in each section of the city.

2. There are many boys begging and collecting money on the streets for causes that do not exist.

*Our Platform*—That the practice is bad not alone for the boys but also for the city. We do not believe that the citizens should give boys money when asked to do so on the city streets.

3. The Public Schools belong to the Tax Payers of Newark. Why should so many of them be closed to the boys evenings?

*Our Platform*—The Public Schools, properly supervised and open evenings for recreation and social purposes.

4. Over one thousand boys were before the Juvenile Court last year because of lack of supervision by the citizens of Newark.

*Our Platform*—A Friend and Counselor for every boy who needs one.

5. Newark boys who are unfortunate enough to get into trouble often have their names printed in the daily newspapers.

*Our Platform*—Boys like men do make mistakes. It is fair play toward the boy not to tell the city of his mistake by printing his name. We believe that to omit the name will encourage the boy to do right.

6. Many boys are injured and several are killed each year in Newark while "hitching on" moving vehicles. Hitching is prohibited by law.

*Our Platform*—Require all drivers to prevent "hitching" at all times on vehicles in their charge. Make them personally responsible for all such accidents.

7. Debating, music, dramatic, radio, social athletic, group, neighborhood and mass boys' clubs need 500 men.

*Our Platform*—That if service is the coin in which humanity's greatest debts are paid there is a wonderful opportunity for the Men's Clubs of Newark to organize and delegate Leaders and

Friends for organized clubs of boys.

8. A small per cent. of Newark's boys have the use of indoor play rooms. There are not enough playgrounds in Newark.

*Our Platform*—The use of more space in the city parks for definite sports and the assignment of certain streets at specified hours, properly supervised as play centers.

## Sprint Ball

### *The Game*

The game of Sprint Ball is played by two teams of ten girls. It is a variation of baseball, arranged so that four innings shall be a game. The purpose is by sprinting and dodging, one shall run to base and return.

### *Ball*

The ball shall be an official Volley Ball.

### *Field*

The home base, 12 inches square, is 60 feet from sprint base (5 feet long and 3 feet wide). Pitcher's box is 25 feet from home plate.

### *Officials*

The game shall be in charge of an umpire who shall appoint a scorer.

### *Playing regulations*

The batter must face the pitcher to hit the ball forward, for any hit ball is fair. She must run to sprint-base on third strike not caught or on four called balls or on a fair hit.

If she reaches sprint-base and returns to home-base unhit or before ball reaches either base, she scores one run. Any number of runners may occupy sprint-base, but a batter must always be ready to bat in order or three are declared out, which regularly retires side.

After leaving sprint-base for home base, the runner cannot return unless a fly ball is caught, when she must return to sprint base.

A batter is out when:

1. A flyball is caught.
2. The third strike is caught.
3. Runner is touched by ball held by player.
4. Runner is hit by ball thrown by any player.
5. Ball reaches sprint-base and is held before runner arrives.

6. Ball in hand of baseman touches runner who may over-run sprint-base.

7. Hits ball after stepping out of box.

From Playground Athletic League, Baltimore, Md.

## A Need in Physical Education

By

CLARK W. HETHERINGTON

The legislative campaigns for state physical education are handicapped by the prejudice against the physical which is a survival of asceticism, scholasticism and Puritanism.

There is no more pressing need in America than the need for an effective organization of physical education, especially for elementary school children. The need is very critical. Few children have any physical education worth the name. Playgrounds are not available at most schools and most playground administration is woefully inefficient. There is a prejudice against the word "physical," but the activities on the playground have a profound character training value and using the word "health education" to cover these activities literally stabs child welfare in the back. One of the most critical needs with reference to the welfare of all children in America today is a campaign that will do for physical education exactly what the playground movement did for play. In 1906 there was just as great prejudice against the idea of "play" and those of us who did the practical promoting were sneered at constantly. The same situation exists concerning the word "physical." There is no other word that can take its place. It is traditional. We must have a campaign that will popularize it. To my mind there is no bigger task that the Playground Association could undertake at the present time than a campaign that would popularize physical education.

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The Playground and Recreational Board of Birmingham, Alabama, recently adopted the policy of duplicating any amount, up to \$5,000, raised for the purpose of building community centers in any one neighborhood. One neighborhood took the initiative and \$5,000 was raised almost immediately. This example was soon followed by two other neighborhoods which have raised similar amounts. In one neighborhood the President of a railway company gave \$5,000. The development has been aided materially by the formation of an Association in the neighborhood of each playground. This fall will see the beginning of three new community houses in Birmingham.

## The Rackham Golf Course

By

EDWARD G. HECKEL

*Commissioner, Department of Parks and Boulevards, Detroit, Michigan*

On November 7, 1924, Mr. and Mrs. Horace H. Rackham presented to the City of Detroit 133 acres of land valued, at a conservative estimate, at \$1,500 an acre. In addition to this property, which was developed by Mr. Rackham as a golf course, there is being constructed without expense to the city an up-to-date clubhouse containing locker-rooms and shower baths.

The acquisition of this course, which is considered one of the best in the country, means that large numbers of residents of Detroit who have hitherto been deprived of the opportunity to play golf will now be able to enjoy this health-giving game. In the addition of this course a forward step has been taken in Detroit toward developing the game, and the public-spirited action of Mr. and Mrs. Rackham indicates the popularity of this sport. Within the next two or three years the city should have an eighteen-hole course in the vicinity of Connors Creek Park, two at River Rouge Park and a nine-hole course at Campau Woods Park. These, with our present courses at Palmer Park and Belle Isle, will take care of our golf needs for some time.

Rules and regulations for the operation of Rackham course have been formulated. To be able to play on this course, which is not intended for the use of beginners, the applicant must hold a certificate issued by this department to those giving satisfactory evidence of ability to play upon a first class course. The rules will be in accord with those of the United States Golf Association and also with those in force on municipal courses throughout the country.

Permits for play will be issued between May 15 and August 15 at fifty cents per person for twilight play only. These will be good from five o'clock until dark. During the period before May 15 and after August 15 this time will be extended from 4.30 p. m. until dark. The eighteen-hole play permits will be good to start at any time, either on the hole registration plan or bag line at \$1.00 each per person. Unlimited play permits may start at any time and are good for all times at \$1.50 per person. Lockers, in-

cluding use of toilet and showers, may be secured at \$10 per year or at the rate of fifty cents per day or portion thereof.

few other trees, beside balsam, may be used, but not any other will give as much satisfaction. Some of these trees are hemlock, white cedar and spruce.

## A League of Walkers

(Continued from page 316)

the drinking water. It is also wise to carry an electric torch in your pack.

The whole equipment including your food should fit into a knapsack. The best knapsack is the kind worn by the mountaineers of Switzerland. It is called a "ruck sack" and it is surprising the amount of baggage that can be stowed into it.

Simple first aid equipment should be included in your pack. Small bandages, a triangular one, some iodine, a few toothache drops, should always be on hand.

Always remember, when on a hike, don't try to overdo. Don't be afraid to take short rests, but don't rest over five minutes, as long rests tend to stiffen the muscles.

Always remember, you are out for a holiday, so don't drive yourself to do things you wouldn't have a horse do.

On long hikes when suffering from thirst, don't drink excessively. It is best to drink slowly, a few drops at a time.

Your food and personal things I have left to your discretion. Don't take anything you can get along without, because it is surprising how quickly small articles mount into bulk and weight.

### *Bough Beds*

Of all the fragrant, healthful, sweet scented beds, the balsam bed of boughs is supreme. Woodcrafters always show their woods experience by the kind of bough bed they make.

A frame of four logs must first be made or the small branches of balsam will spread from under you. The fewer thick stems there are on the branches the easier you will rest.

Start off by placing the larger branches at the head of the bed against the log, butts down, convex side up to insure springiness. Keep on thatching in that way till you reach the foot of the bed. Then take smaller twigs of balsam and stick them upright with tips pointing slightly toward the head of the bed. Such a bed is luxurious but, of course, it all depends on the amount of thatching and the freshness of the material. A

## Getting the Child's Point of View

Miss Josephine Blackstock, Director of Playground Board, Oak Park, Illinois, has written of some experiments she has been conducting in order to get the child's point of view on types of play and his attitude toward the playgrounds and their conduct. The following projects were undertaken:

(A) A contest in which an award was given to the boys and girls suggesting the most workable and interesting improvements in the day's program on the playgrounds. The answers were illuminating. The suggestions covered, among other points, the following: A special hour in which the junior leaders (the older children) should introduce new games; an ingenious new piece of apparatus; special flag raising exercises; a rotating program in which various groups of children should occupy a certain play space according to age interests; original stunts days contributed by the children; a campaign among the children to interest the parents in playground activities.

(B) A vote on the most popular game played on the playgrounds. This included the various pieces of apparatus. The children were asked as well to give on the ballots their reasons for liking the games. These reasons were striking. The popularity votes will be classified this summer.

(C) A contest in writing an original play and a story, to ascertain just what were the normal, unprejudiced age interests of the children in dramatics and literature and especially the influence of the moving picture on their tastes. One play was suggested by our junior policemen, with some ideas of the play director. They said they didn't want "sissy" or "Sunday school bunk." They did want "detective stuff, a dark stage, burglars, a crime, some clever brain work in finding out a mystery." "Accordingly we have what I consider a most interesting document. It reflects without any adult tampering the dramatic tastes of an eleven-twelve year old boy. It is a sort of a *Cat and the Canary* theme, and is a thriller."



## Safety and Recreation

(Continued from page 321)

passing on of life itself. Safety in the field of sex is quite as much safety for the good adventure as safety from the bad adventure. And the fundamental ethical problem of the situation is this: why accept a sordid substitute instead of the real adventure itself?

Perhaps I have given you a hint of why we feel that safety belongs in the schools. The ethical approach to life in the case of children has largely broken down. If it is to be reconstructed it must be built out of the elements of the problem of living together in a purposeful way. Has not safety exactly the qualities out of which such an ethics can be built? The principles can be established in the field of physical safety where there is already such a rich emotional background of intuition and carried just as much further as may be desired. Perhaps you will be interested to know that this movement is now making such rapid progress that we can with considerable assurance say that it will be only a few years until every progressive school in the country will be teaching safety.

### A VIEW OF LIFE ITSELF

I think perhaps you will say that this view of safety is not really a view of safety but a view of life. Why, of course, it is a view of life! You may start where you please, if you have discovered a real approach and if you will keep on the track, and you will always find yourself finally in the presence of life itself. In fact this is the test of whether you have found something worth while. The very most right thing about safety is that it leads to the more abundant life.

In closing I want to say explicitly what I am sure you have sensed. We look at you with admiration and reverence as the modern incarnation of the joy of living. You are the 20th Century nymphs and fauns and leprechauns. You are the leaders of the bands of fairies that still may be found in the land of heart's desire. You thought we wanted to stop your play. We don't, we want to play with you. Admit us, I pray, to the glorious company of those that are trying to rediscover the joy of life!

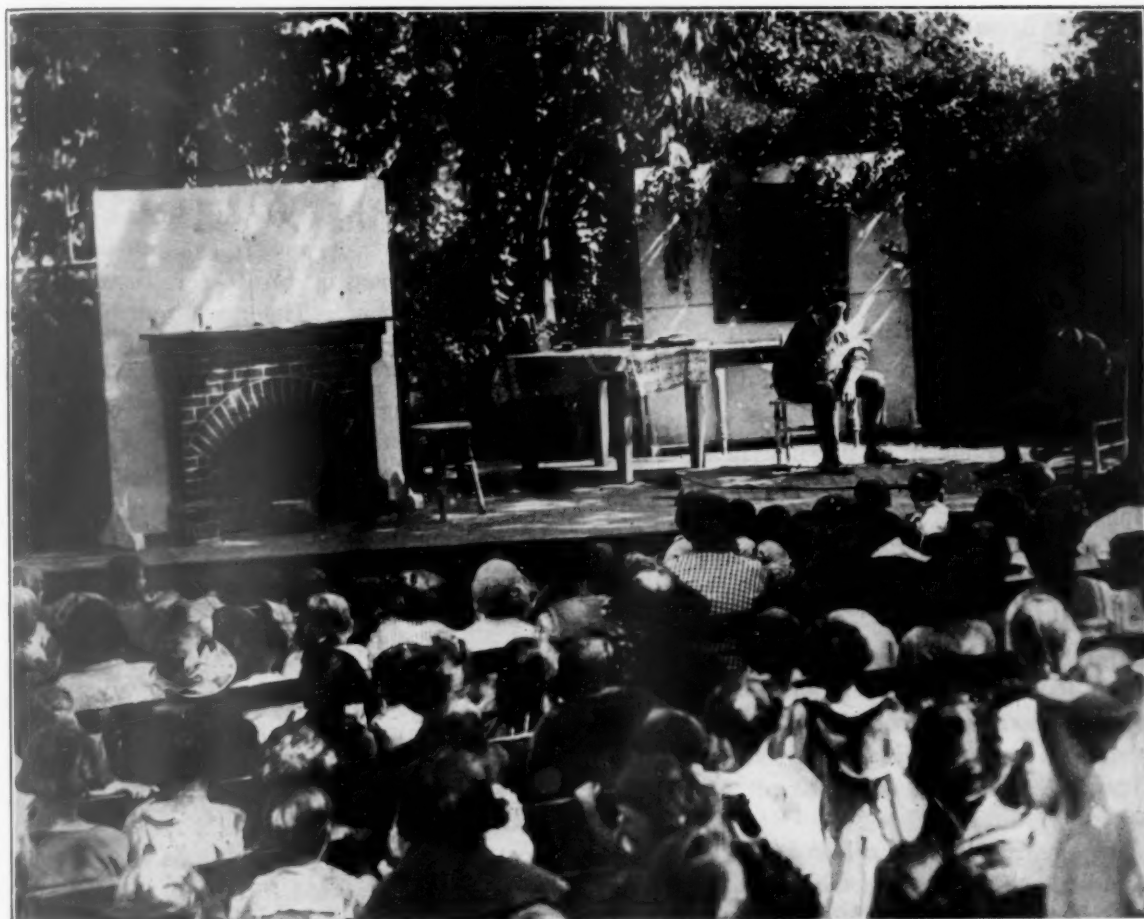
## Fundamentals as to the Safety of Play for Children

The following suggestions are offered. Are they adequate?

1. Play in the street only where the street has been roped off for play, and traffic has been diverted.
2. When playing on the sidewalk keep as far from the curb as possible. You may forget and step off in front of an auto.
3. Stop and look before running into the street after a ball or stick.
4. Catching rides on automobiles or wagons is unsafe.
5. Be careful in swinging around corners on roller skates or with scooter, or wagon. You may be carried into the street as you dodge some pedestrian.
6. In coasting with your sled in winter coast in the fields away from the streets and roads and automobiles or on streets set aside for coasting and patrolled to prevent accidents.
7. Look before stepping off a street car.
8. You want a good time but you can have more and better good times with two arms and two legs than you can with less; so look before you walk or leap.
9. If your city has not provided a playground near you, write to your mayor and tell him you want a safe place to play—a place safe for play.

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**Scouts and Colleges.**—"The Boy Scouts," said James E. West, Chief Scout Executive, in his address at the Third Biennial Conference of Scout Executives, "recently concluded a thorough analysis of the student body at Harvard. A survey of the 1,265 undergraduates shows that 598, or 47 per cent., were former scouts. With the aid of Provost Graves a similar survey was made of 1,838 undergraduates at Yale. It was found that 719, or 39 per cent., were former scouts. A previously reported analysis of the men at Annapolis revealed that 915, or 37.7 per cent. of the men enrolled, were former scouts; and an analysis made of the group at West Point showed 38.8 per cent. were former scouts. Twenty-eight of the thirty-two honor students last selected for the Rhodes Scholarship replied to our questionnaire, showing that 46 per cent. of them were formerly scouts."



PLAYGROUND THEATER, OAKLAND, CAL. (OPEN AIR)

**The American Physical Education Association Meets in Los Angeles.**—There was much discussion of interest at the 32nd annual convention of the American Physical Education Association held in Los Angeles, Cal., June 22-26. One of the high spots in the conference was a demonstration of physical training activities arranged by C. L. Glenn, Director of Physical Education in the Los Angeles Public Schools, in which 7,000 Los Angeles Junior and Senior High School students participated. There were tours of inspection of physical education plants nearby. The relation between physical education and the teaching of hygiene, boys' and girls' athletics, physical examinations, group tests, intramural athletics and corrective work all received due attention. The Recreation section brought forth three interesting addresses on Playground and Recreation Program Requirements, Budget Requirements and Leadership Requirements as well as much vigorous discussion. The work of the National Physical Education Service was generally discussed and appreciated.

## Some Findings Regarding Athletic Tests

W. T. Reed, Director of Physical Education, Public Schools and Community Service, Morgantown, West Virginia, gives as his experience in giving athletic tests to boys from eleven to seventeen years of age that the average number of pull-ups (157 boys) was 4.24, the best individual record being 19.

### *Foul Shooting*

These tests were given over a period of one month. Each boy stepped up to the foul line for two trials, returning to the end of the line to await his next turn. No more than eight trials were given on any one day. Each boy was given a total of fifty free throws. The individual record made was 38 out of 50, or 76%. The total number of boys participating was 176. The average percent of goals made was 22.69.

*Baskets Per Minute Tests*

In this event the contestant is given a basket ball and allowed to take his place at any desired position under or near the basket. At a given signal he begins trying for baskets in an attempt to get as many as possible in the time limit of one minute. The individual high score was 18 per minute; the average, 7.9. One hundred and seventy-seven boys competed.

*Gripping Tests*

In this contest the grip was measured by a manometer. Both right and left grip was tested, and the average taken as the individual score. The total number of boys was 259. The average grip was 57.4.

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## Athletics for Girls

The following activities taken from the program of the Illinois High School Athletic Association have been recommended for use in Virginia by the State Board of Education:

*Basketball.*—Shoot 8 out of 10 goals from 15-foot line.

Using one hand, throw ball 70 feet.

Using two hands, throw from chest, pushing ball 50 feet.

In couples, 20 feet apart:

Using one hand, throw 45 passes in one minute.

Using two hands, throw from chest 60 passes in one minute.

*Baseball.*—Throw regulation league outdoor ball 140 feet.

Throw 12-inch indoor ball 100 feet.

Throw up and bat:

Outdoor ball, a distance of 180 feet before striking the ground.

12-inch indoor ball a distance of 130 feet before striking the ground.

*Field and Track Athletics.*—Try to equal or excel any two of the following:

Basketball throw 80 feet.

Baseball throw 175 feet.

50-yard dash 7 seconds.

*Tennis.*—As many of Virginia's rural schools have courts, the following should be attempted after school instead of in class:

Be able to serve six good balls out of ten. Balls must pass between the net and a rope three feet above the net.

Be able to use three different kinds of strokes (i. e., over, under and backhand).

## Stamford's Street Wading Pool

The picture of water play in Stamford, Conn., which appeared in the June PLAYGROUND has occasioned interested interrogation as to the details. The portable wading pool and shower nozzle were invented by Fire Chief Victor Veit and S. H. Ezezquelle. There are four particularly valuable features connected with this shower: 1. Cheapness. 2. Portableness. 3. Shower nozzle dispersing water so gently that there is no danger of injury to the children. 4. Wading pool, which is very useful for the very little children.

The wading pool is made of waterproof canvas 17 feet square, with brass grommets every 12 inches. The frame is made of three quarter inch galvanized iron pipe 15 feet square so as to allow a depth of about 10 inches when set up. The stanchions with the floor flanges measure 12 inches from the ground. There are four unions, which make it easy to take apart. The canvas is hung on hooks made to rings which slide over the pipe. The cost of the frame work is about \$15.00 and that of the canvas \$30.00.

The base of the shower which is of concrete, was made over an old Fire Department bell. It somewhat resembles the base of the traffic signs in use in New York City. It is reinforced by an old tire rim. It may be any shape but should be heavy enough to hold the shower with flowing water. In the concrete base is set a 5 foot length of two and a half or three inch pipe, with two reducers, one at the base, and one at the tip just below the nozzle. At the base is set the coupling for the hose, which must be the size of the Fire Department of the town which is to use it. To this is attached the hose to the hydrant.

The tip is of solid brass, about two inches in height and one half inch across, pierced all around. Screwed to the top is a small flat hood, which aids in spreading the water.

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**Child-Welfare Exposition, Belgium.**—An international child-welfare exposition will be held in Antwerp next October, under the auspices of the Belgian Children's Bureau and other public authorities. Five sections are planned: Maternity and child welfare; physical education; food; clothing; and the mother and child in art, folklore, and literature.



## The Problem Column

Ought local recreation systems to make a wider use of interviews given out by leading citizens as to the value of local recreation and the work of the local recreation commission, association, or other group responsible for the local program? Recently in a certain national campaign, hundreds of leading citizens wrote and telegraphed Senators at Washington and copies of the telegrams, letters and statements were also sent to the campaign headquarters where they were put together in galley form making a very impressive exhibit showing how a very large number of the representative people of the country were thoroughly committed to the project favored.

Usually in the local recreation movements the greatest obstacle to be overcome is indifference. Word from a very large number of the thoughtful people of the community as to their feeling about the importance of recreation could do much to overcome this indifference.

## As to Motion Pictures

My dear Mr. Braucher:

I am in receipt of your letter of June 19th in which you brought to my attention the question of the free showing of motion pictures in Recreation and Community Center buildings.

This is a matter in which the public as well as the motion picture industry is vitally concerned and I appreciate your kindness in allowing me to express my views on the subject.

I am certain that the recreation departments showing motion pictures in school houses should make a regular charge for those who see the films. While it is perfectly true that by securing a splendid class of films they are creating a demand for such pictures, they are, at the same time, unconsciously lowering the estimation and value placed on those films when they display them free of charge. This is purely a psychological fact. If the best films are shown free they are proportionately discouraged as business projections. People have a habit of judging pictures, in some degree at least, by the money value that is placed upon them. There is a feeling of distrust against anything that comes too cheaply.

In addition it is patently unfair for community centers supported by taxation and relieved from the necessity of paying taxes themselves, to show motion pictures free in competition with the regu-

lar theatres in the city. It is unfair competition to the theatre owner whose livelihood comes from the showing of pictures, who has a large investment in his property, his building, his music, and his film rentals, and who pays high taxes, insurance rates and the like from which community centers are exempt. He is engaged in an essential business and deserves consideration and support.

The entertainment picture—the sort we have in our theatres—is a commodity the same as any other article that is for sale and should not be used for other purposes than that for which it was intended. However worthy a purpose may be, to use an entertainment motion picture to advance that purpose or idea at the expense of the motion picture is unfair.

To operate a motion picture theatre requires money. There are necessary overhead expenses that must be met. Cashiers, operators, porters, ushers, managers cost money. The strictest building regulations must be observed. Taxes must be paid. Insurance must be carried. And films must be paid for. If someone else comes in and takes away the clientele of that picture house and offers it the same thing for nothing, the theatre is bound to suffer and, if the practice is carried far enough, the theatre will be forced sooner or later to close its doors.

The motion picture theatre is the place for the entertainment picture just as the drugstore is the place for drugs and the schoolhouse for education. If any pictures are shown elsewhere they ought to be such pictures as are made especially for the other purpose. That is, a pedagogical picture should be made especially for the schoolhouse; the church picture for the church.

In all communities it is to be supposed there are times for going to the motion picture theatre, and times for outdoor recreation and for other pursuits of life. To take one of these factors and make it work for the other is permissible only when it works in its separate way to stimulate interest in the other. Many pictures stimulate interest in outdoor games. The slow motion picture showing a game of tennis, for instance, creates a desire to play tennis. And so it goes.

If you and other members of your association were engaged in the motion picture business, you would not feel that it was fair for a city department, however worthy, to set up in competition to you and show free pictures while you were charging for yours. You would probably welcome legitimate competition but you would ex-

pect that competition to be on the same basis as that on which you operate.

As for raising the standards in motion pictures, certainly an equal service can be rendered by charging admission as when the pictures are shown free. As a matter of fact it occurs to me that a greater service can be rendered in this regard by charging admission.

In showing special pictures in your recreation buildings free you will not be raising the standards of those shown in the theatres. Without a charge you would have no way of affecting the production of pictures where the raising of standards must necessarily lie and probably would not find available for your uses the best thought in motion picture production of today.

I can see no special reasons for having free admission to motion pictures in a community center.

It seems to me that you will find your answer in close cooperation between the local recreation and playground leader and the theatre managers. If they can work together and each find in the other a complement to his own work, the problem will be solved. Help the theatre manager to feel that he has a definite part in the community life and foster the community interest. This is a great big question and worthy of your very best thought.

Again with thanks for calling the matter to my attention and with best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Jason S. Joy.

Director, Department of Public Relations, Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc.

"F. P. A." of the N. Y. World Conning Tower fame writes from Florence, Italy, in *The Diary of Our Own Samuel Pepys*, under date of Monday, June 22nd, "Early up and looked from my window out at the Arno for an hour and watched the young men rowing in shells, as they do at home on the Harlem; and there are many of them here, handsome and athletic, and many such oarsmen are passing all day long. It is the only thing approaching sport I have seen in Italy, save some lads playing at football in a Jesuit school near Frascati, and they were but kicking a ball about, with no notion of any game about it. They are good enough athletes, the Italians; but for sport and games, meseems, they do not care. And that I deem a bad thing for them, for as much as the playing of games, I am growing to believe, hath a great effect on life and character."

## Are You Happy in Your Play?

Robert L. Duffus recently raised the question in *Collier's Magazine* whether soon, "Are you happy in your play?" will not be a more important question than, "Are you happy in your job?" When we ask a man what his life work is, will we not soon ask him what his life play is?

If you work eight hours a day you will find that for every hour of work you have more than two and a half hours of rest and play if you stop to consider Sundays, holidays, and vacations.

If you live to be 70 years old you probably won't work much before you are 16 or after you are 60. That cuts your actual working life measured in years to 44 but you work less than 2400 hours in each of these 44 years so that your actual working life is approximately 12 years. You have left consequently out of your 70 years on earth about 29 for sleep and 29 for play.

"Ours is the first generation that can afford to give more time to play than to work. Machinery now-a-days enables us to produce more than 2 to 100 times as much, the average is perhaps 15 times as much, as our great-grandfathers."

"So the idea that play is something unsuitable for grown men or women has vanished along with whiskers and steel-ribbed corsets."

"In 1920 we actually spent nearly twenty-eight billion dollars or about one-third of our national income on luxuries, and about six billion dollars of this was spent on having a good time."

"Our children will play more than we do because they will know more about play than we do. They won't be hampered, as much middle-aged people are today, with the old notion that work is about all that life is for."

"When children learn things that will help them in their work, they are preparing for their 12 years of working life; when they learn things that will help them in their play they are preparing for their 29 years of recreation. It doesn't take a mathematician to decide which is the more important."

"A playing child is learning something he has to have if he is to lead a happy life later—for example, at 55 or 65."

"Being successful at play takes just as much ability as being successful at work."

"We need play, if for no other reason, to keep us fit for our jobs, but it is just as sensible to say

that we ought to manage our working hours so as to keep us fit for play."

"I have seen golf courses on Saturday and Sunday afternoons when there was less of the spirit of play than in an old fashioned haymaking. The members of those golf clubs hadn't had the right sort of education, they hadn't learned how to play."

"What's to be done about it? The answer is simple. It is as simple as the New Testament. The requirements for successful play is the same as those for entrance to the Kingdom of Heaven. We must become as little children."

## A Modern Community House

(Continued from page 329)

group using these conveniences at the time may have exclusive use of them. Each of these departments have their own locker room and shower bath room as well as their own lobby.

The gymnasium has an outside measurement of 50 by 70 feet, brick walls in three colors, and a separate storage room for paraphernalia. The bowling alley provides three alleys. The swimming pool measures 25 by 60 feet with walk ways on three sides and varies in depth from 3½ to 8 feet. Three large class rooms and a kitchen are arranged so they may be thrown open into one big room for special occasions such as banquets or dances, and have direct access to a service entrance.

In the auditorium quaint old English hand wrought lanterns and chandeliers have been used. All lanterns both within and without, have been specially designed for their distinct localities and no two alike are to be found.



THE VERY PRACTICAL BANDSTAND ON THE HAMMOND PLAYGROUND, WAUSAU, WISCONSIN, WHICH FURNISHES A STORE ROOM FOR SUPPLIES UNDERNEATH THE PLATFORM

## The Knights of Caney

A thin little paper booklet—a few inches in length and width, several pages in content—yet it leaves you with a lump in your throat and a great faith in your heart. For it is the Caney Creek (Kentucky) Community Center News Letter, printed by the boys of the Center. It tells in simple yet poetic language of a "crusade" of the boys and girls of Caney through the foothills of the Cumberlands, "The entire Junior High School Knights followed the creek-bed, singing as they marched  
We'll

Be  
Coming  
Through  
The Mountains  
When We Come!"

"To the dully-waiting teacher  
To the stolid youths-of-twenty  
To the weary mountaineer-parents  
The Message of Equal Opportunity for the Hills."

Except in the winter season the mountain-enclosed playground is the meeting place of the Citizens' Club of one hundred members. At roll-call each citizen responds with a quotation of moral or aesthetic value—and he says it so all can hear. The fundamental idea of this group of young people in community service—"and," says their leader, "they really live it."

"Not enough attention is given to the development of playgrounds in smaller communities. There is very little interest in these communities in organized play and in community playgrounds. I have in mind particular small industrial communities and small mining communities.

"The difficulty is that for the most part adults in these communities have not themselves come into contact with a modern play organization.

"The best approach seems to me through the various church organizations and school boards. The owners and officials of mining and industrial corporations could also help.

"There is a feeling pretty generally held throughout the country that children already play too much and ought to work more. Yet it seems to me the community would benefit from a better organization of such play time as is available."

—From a letter received from a manager of an industrial organization.



## At the Conferences

THE ANNUAL BOYS' CLUB  
FEDERATION CONVENTION

The pros and cons of work for and with boys were discussed by a large delegation of boys' club workers and other interested people at the annual Boys' Club Federation Convention held in New York City, May 25-28. It was reported that during an 8-year period the number of boys in the Federation had increased from 61,000 to 190,000 and the clubs from 105 to 248. A 12% increase had been made in members during the past year. Dr. George E. Vincent, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, made the address at the opening session, emphasizing the fact that exposure to good things, rather than constant advice, would accomplish most in building boys.

The subject of securing and training volunteer workers drew forth considerable discussion. Miss Clare Tousley, Extension Secretary of the Charity Organization Society, presented the method used in that organization, showing that if the volunteer was treated seriously as a worker, given a chance for training, real responsibility and leadership, he would be more apt to live up to that responsibility.

She felt that the problem at hand was not the securing of volunteers but the holding of them. There were three things which could be done for success in this line.

1. Offer the volunteers real responsibility
2. Offer them real leadership
3. Give them a chance for real development in the thing they were trying to do.

Last month, she said, they had 62 volunteers giving from 1 to 5 days a week. They had worked up this number by the trial and error method. She felt the boys' club work was easier work with which to catch the imagination of the people than C. O. S. work but after you had caught the imagination and brought in volunteers in the white heat of enthusiasm you must deliver the goods. The trouble was that usually it hadn't been thought through. She felt that the volunteer had been as much sinned against as sinning. Five years ago they were on the wrong track about volunteers. If the volunteers phoned they weren't coming in to do something they were told that "it was perfectly all right" and in reality they didn't expect anything of them. The situation was artificial. We didn't grant that the volunteer really wanted hard work and so gave them the odd jobs. One day some of the volunteers came to them and

said, "We have the same interest that the paid workers have but we don't get the same training or jobs."

Now, Miss Tousley said, they advertised for volunteers—saying, for instance, that they had 2400 families and only 100 workers to care for them—they needed volunteers. When the applicants arrived they found out their motive, what they wanted to get out of it. They were treated as the staff. They were asked if they would take 21 hours a week work and a course of training. If they weren't serious about it, they weren't accepted. One lady said well, she was glad to find some social work on that basis—that she had been carrying a plant to an old lady for a long time and she didn't know anything about the old lady or why she was carrying the plant and yet when she left she was told she was invaluable. Volunteers were asked to fill out an application blank giving three references. They were taken on a month's probation. This was the saving of both them and you. They might not be fitted for that work but it might be possible to recommend something else to them which was right for them. Sometimes a dilettante had come to them and, if there was a grain of sincerity, they would take her on—and oftentimes after a month she would be enthusiastic heart and soul in the work. They had been able to hold two-thirds of their volunteers from the preceding years. Some people said they had 100% turnover so it didn't pay to train volunteers but she felt if they started training they might not have the 100% turnover. Boys' workers, she said, were as much social workers as anyone. Enthusiasm was necessary but to arrive anyone must have solid backbone of method and experience. You wanted a captain, for instance, who loved the sea and the salt air, but you also wanted him to know how to steer the boat. It was like sending a man out to fight without a gun. Ideas must be exchanged and the workers must work together. The C. O. S. had 4500 boys under their care (over 9000 children). There was a new emphasis on individualization on the basis of assets and liabilities in the person.

Need for the training of boys' workers was emphasized. In addition to scientific and theoretical knowledge, it was pointed out that common sense, flexibility and sympathy as well as a period of apprenticeship were necessary for a good boys' club worker. Professor Raymond A. Hoyer, who is conducting a very successful course in boy leadership in the University of Notre Dame, told of their course which trains for boys' work execu-

tives. This lasts two years; only men of college degree are admitted and, upon completion of the course, they are entitled to an A. M. degree.

The boys' work plan in Two Rivers, Wis., a small town of little over 7000, was described by its President, Thomas W. Suddard. The ideals back of the work are that everyone in the community shall believe in and have an opportunity to invest in the work. Every boy in the community is a member of the club; there are 3000 contributors; over 300 men are helping as volunteers.

Henry A. Higgins, Secretary of the Massachusetts Prison Association, spoke of the value of boys' club work in reducing juvenile delinquency. "Criminologists have not been the real pioneers in the prevention of delinquency," he said. "These have been the advocates of playgrounds, recreation centers, public baths, Boy Scouts and boys' clubs. . . . The playground movement grew up because of the crowded conditions of cities. But now we realize that public play spaces do more than give health and happiness to children. They are of vital importance in crime prevention. Now playgrounds are training fields where the young are prepared to take their place on the broad moral battleground of life." He especially emphasized the wide appeal of the boys' club to the boy.

The increasing degree of indulgence and understanding which the "cop" has toward the boy on the streets was indicated by Capt. John Ayers, head of the Bureau of Missing Persons and Social Welfare, New York City Police Department.

#### CITY PLANNING CONFERENCE

The New York State Architect, Mr. Sullivan Jones, said that city planning has been obliged to concern itself with the past but regional planning deals with the future. He said, "Man first swats the fly and when he finds the swatting a futile attempt, then he screens his doors and windows. He then attacks the breeding places." The State started with the house, then the city and they are now attacking the fundamental cause of the trouble, the region. As the various communities become related they will become a continuous chain of activities and the State Commission will find itself. The local planning boards will cooperate in developing the larger plan. The State Commission's function has been to stimulate and organize interest in planning for the future. There has been started a State Federation of Planning Boards. This is a voluntary organization of local planning boards to be used as an agency for closer

cooperation in consideration of local problems. The organization plan is under way in two great regions, the first known as the Niagara Frontier including Niagara and Erie Counties with a population of nearly a million people. The second region, known as the Capitol Region, embraces three counties, Schenectady, Albany and Rensselaer. Interest in this region has been stimulated recently by the passage by Congress of the Deeper Hudson Bill, making plans for deepening the channel to Albany and the creation of a Port of Authority. Movement is under way looking toward organization in two other regions to be known as the Hudson Industrial Basin and the region comprised largely of Westchester County.

The State Commission has been studying the problem of the plan of the State of New York and the result is presented in the form of an exhibit. This will effect highway plans in the future.

George B. Ford, President of the National Conference on City Planning, said:

Congress should be useful in clearing up misconceptions and in bringing about understanding between nations interested in permanent peace for the United States can afford for study an exceptionally large number of plans. City planning is active in 22 out of 48 states and well launched in all but six of the remainder. There are now over 300 cities with planning and zoning commissions and at least 7 State Commissions. One of the most encouraging facts is that 100 towns of less than 10,000 have planning commissions. Two-thirds of the towns of over 25,000 inhabitants enjoy the benefits of zoning. Much interest is being evidenced in areas beyond the actual city limits. Plans for New York have been worked out by the Russell Sage Foundation. The development of parks and playgrounds has had special impetus of late. Chicago, Philadelphia, Birmingham and the New York Park systems were mentioned especially.

The President's Recreation Conference was referred to as evidence of interest in recreation and the creation of a long needed Park Commission for Washington and surrounding region. Some years ago there was a movement organized by the Federal City Planning Commission but Washington outgrew this plan.

Cincinnati was mentioned as the first large city to have a complete city plan and there nothing can be done contrary to the public plan.

In Canada regional planning is under way for Hamilton. Mexico is adopting a new city plan. In South America most of the larger cities and

many of the smaller cities were worked out according to plan and are most worthy examples. In Japan great progress is made under the compulsory town planning law. In India plans have been drawn for seven cities. In Europe the public became interested in city planning as far back as 30 years ago. Particular stress is laid on maintaining the personality of the towns.

Plans to take care of growth cannot end at the end of the city line. In Germany plans have been made to cover 15,000 square miles. Interest in the art of planning is growing as shown by the number of representatives of foreign countries taking part in the meeting.

A Canadian representative said they were gradually making progress. Their Town Planning Institute has a membership of 170.

A representative of the British government said their town planning work had been considerably hindered by the war. Under the British Town Planning Act the Urban District Council takes care of the small town and the Rural District Council takes care of the more rural areas.

The French representative spoke particularly of the Institute conducted by the University of Paris to educate city officials in order that no branch of city planning and administration will be neglected.

Prof. Sverre Pedersen, City Architect, Trondheim, Norway, said that their buildings were mostly built of wood and their problem is one of not disfiguring the landscape. He said that he was almost alone in his interest in city planning and that the International movement is a boon to those living outside. In Norway there are about 12 houses to the acre. Their sporting interests are not confined to watching sports in stadiums but in the people having space and places to play around. Considerable progress has been made toward controlling the painting even of private houses. This is especially true in the villages and smaller towns. A certain moderation in color seems to be favorable. Dark colors the people do not like, but they use a rich scale of tan, grey, green and red.

Dr. Steuben, father of city planning in Germany and editor of the City Plan Magazine first published twenty years ago, was among the speakers.

Robert Whitten, a City Planner of Cleveland, Ohio, objected to the haphazard methods by which city extensions are plotted. He recommended the control of additions and subdivisions by a regional planning board or commission. "In America," he said, "the character of city growth is largely

directed by the real estate sub divided. They are usually compelled by rules of the game to devote their energies to buying and selling building lots with but little or no consideration for the permanent welfare or attractions of the community."

Among the essentials of properly laying out plots of ground he mentioned the necessity of the neighborhood having all the functions and facilities of a complete residential unit. It must have churches, schools, playgrounds, parks, stadiums, ball grounds. These should be fitted to the contour of the land and their location given proper consideration in connection with future growth. The neighborhood must possess the natural beauty that comes from private gardens and from careful preservation of the scenic beauty of its land including extended water and sky views. These are community assets of very real value. He said "Daily contact with nature in some of its varied forms is an essential of healthy, normal living. It has an undoubted energizing, tonic effect, a restful effort on eye and nerve and aids clarity of thought. It facilitates a sane, joyous outlook on life. It stimulates and it inspires."

The control of the subdivision of land in the plotting of land has not been insisted upon. In the cities where the zoning principle has been accepted it is inconceivable that the application of this principle should be long delayed. Planning and zoning control will progress more efficiently when it is understood.

He emphasized the necessity of preparing a comprehensive plan several years in advance for unbuilt areas in order that main thoroughfares might be properly considered, building lines established, and the planning of street charts and small neighborhood parks and playgrounds receive proper consideration.

Westchester County's Recreational Plan was discussed by Joy Downer, Consulting Engineer and Executive, Westchester County Park Commission. He said "We have got a great deal of money in a very short time. We have done more in the last 21 months than any other community on earth. There has been an appropriation of 22 million dollars in 21 months for an area of about 400 square miles with about 400,000 population. The people are largely those who come to Westchester County for a home community. They come to enjoy living. We have confidence in our officials and the people are willing to support the plan they bring forward.

"Twelve years ago we began to build the





## The "PEAK-LOAD" of PLAY

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#### WOMEN'S DIVISION N. A. A. F.

The second annual meeting of the Women's Division, N. A. A. F., was held in Chicago in April. Reports were heard from the Work-Shop Groups established in New York, Pittsburgh and Chicago. Important changes in the by-laws and "platform" were suggested and referred to a committee on by-laws. The following statement was adopted as the policy of the Women's Division for the coming year:

"No athletics can exist without competition.

"The object of the Women's Division of the National Amateur Athletic Federation is to promote *wholesome* athletic competition for the greatest number of girls and women.

"The type of organization which fosters extra-mural games does *not* build toward these ideals.

"Therefore, the Women's Division encourages a broadly planned *intra-mural program*, and for the present, *stands firmly against the policy of extra-mural competition.*"

The papers given upon the second day of the conference will be published and available at a small charge to all who are interested in having them. They include: The Principles Underlying the Evaluation, Selection and Adaptation of Athletic Activities for Girls and Women, by Marianna G. Packer, Head of Department of Physical Education and Hygiene, State Normal School, Trenton, N. J.

The Application of These Principles to Children, Ruth Dunbar Girls, Vera G. Gardiner.

Women

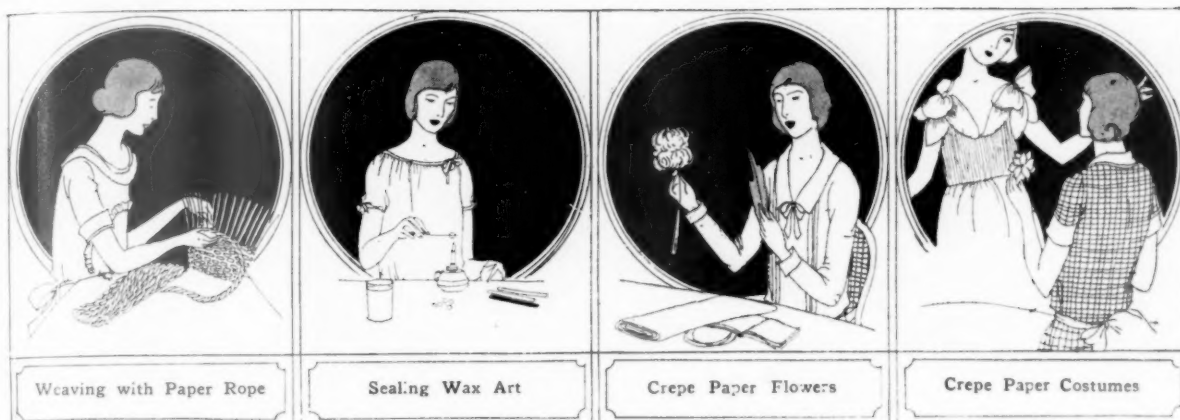
In Educational Institutions, Mabel Lee

In Young Women's Christian Association Groups, M. Florence Lawson

In Industry, Ruth I. Stone.

"Anybody can be old and happy if he once learns the secret that happiness is not a matter of age but a state of mind. Enjoy things as they are. Remember that you get the respect you earn, no more."

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### 3 How to Make Crepe Paper Flowers

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### 4 How to Make Crepe Paper Costumes

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4. How to make Crepe Paper Costumes

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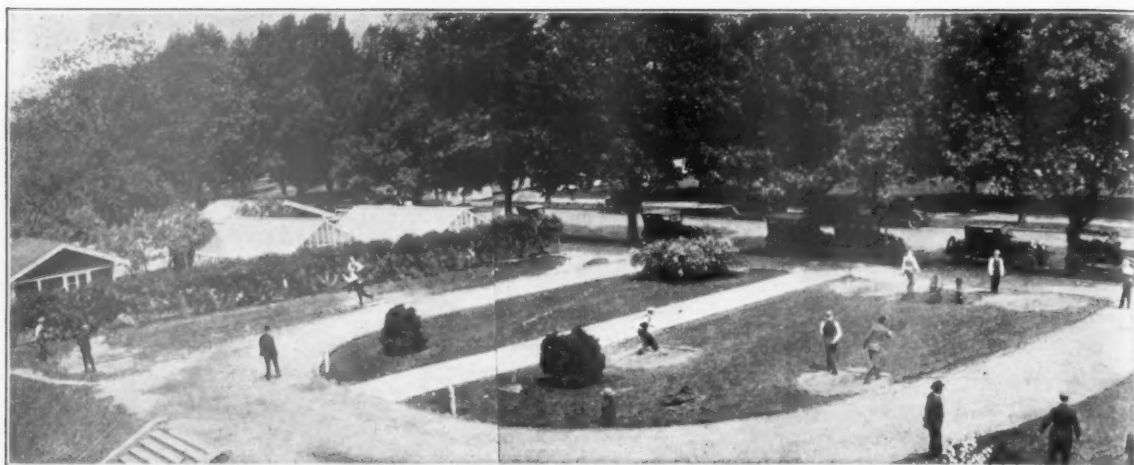
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## Magazines and Pamphlets Recently Received

*Containing Articles of Interest to Recreation Workers  
and Officials*

#### MAGAZINES

- The American City. July, 1925  
Program Building for Playgrounds  
By C. H. English  
Recreation Cabins for Boys and Girls  
A Regional Plan for San Francisco Bay Counties  
Village Planning and Replanning  
By Wayne C. Nason  
Municipal Forests a Profitable Investment  
"Tiny Town" and Its Administration  
A Plan for Motion Picture Study Clubs  
The Institution Quarterly. March, 1925  
The Recreation Program in a Plan for Social  
Treatment  
By Claudia Wanamaker  
The Survey. July 15, 1925  
Planning for Play  
By Lee F. Hanmer  
Child Welfare Magazine. July, 1925  
A Church Playground Center  
By Agnes B. Holmes  
Taking Music Outdoors  
A Ten-Point Measuring Stick for the Playground  
How Pleasantville Solved Its Summer Play Problem  
By Zilpha Mary Carruthers  
The Ole Swimmin' Hole  
By S. J. Crumbine, M. D.

#### Hikes for Health

By Katharine Glover

#### PAMPHLETS

- Suggestions for a Rural Field Day  
Published by the Division of Physical and Health  
Education, Department of Education, Minnesota  
Play and Recreation in Pasadena, California  
Published by Playground and Community Service,  
Pasadena  
Elementary Instruction for Adults  
Report of National Illiteracy Conference Committee  
Bulletin, 1925, No. 8—Bureau of Education, Dept.  
of the Interior  
Available from the Government Printing Office,  
Washington, D. C. Price, 5c  
Twenty Good Books for Parents  
Reading Course No. 21 (Revised)  
Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior  
Playground Handicraft  
Published by the Westchester County Recreation  
Commission, 617 Court House, White Plains,  
N. Y.  
Instructions to Playground Directors  
Published by the Westchester County Recreation  
Commission, 617 Court House, White Plains,  
N. Y.  
Annual Report of the Women's Municipal League of  
Boston  
Vacation Activities and the School  
Published by the Lincoln School of Teachers Col-  
lege, 425 West 123 St., New York City  
The Growth of Personality  
An Address by Dr. George E. Vincent  
Published by the Boys' Club Federation, 3037 Grand  
Central Terminal, New York City

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## Book Reviews

**THE CONSTITUTION AT A GLANCE** by Hazard and Moore. Published by Henry B. Hazard, Lock Box 1919, Washington, D. C. Price, \$.75

This interesting document consists of a large single sheet on which is presented in colors, in substantially the words of the original text, an outline analysis of the Constitution of the United States as amended to date, logically and systematically arranged under five main heads, with copious explanatory notes—principally from decisions of the United States Supreme Court, Acts of Congress and other Governmental sources.

The fact that twenty-eight states have enacted laws requiring that the Constitution be taught in the schools will make this chart doubly valuable. It will also be found helpful for use by national organizations interested in civic education, for high school students and for the adult foreign born who are preparing for citizenship.

**THROUGH STORYLAND TO HEALTHLAND.** By Esther Zucker, Lillian Rabell and Gertrude Katz. Published by Noble and Noble, New York. Price \$.60

Polly's adventures in Healthland, with emphasis on the happy side of health, will have their appeal for boys and girls. Cleanliness, fresh air, healthful foods, proper eating, exercise, sleeping and other habits essential to good health, are woven into an attractive story told in simple language. There is a health playlet and a chapter containing suggestions to teachers in using the book.

**SAFETY FIRST FOR CHILDREN.** By Benjamin Veit. Published by Noble and Noble, New York. Price, \$.65

This book has been prepared by Mr. Veit, District Superintendent of the New York City Public Schools, for use in connection with the course of study in fire and accident prevention recently adopted by the New York schools. In content, through the question method adopted and through the colored illustrations, the book pictures the danger of play in the streets and of carelessness in connection with fire.

**GREAT COMPOSERS 1600-1900.** By Paul John Weaver. University Extension Division, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Price, \$.50

This course of study for music clubs has been issued by the Women's Club Section of the Bureau of Public Discussion. Material for sixteen meetings has been arranged, each one of which is to be devoted to the life and works of a great master. Topics for papers and compositions to serve as illustrations are suggested.

**SPALDING'S TENNIS ANNUAL 1925.** Spalding's Athletic Library, No. 5x7. Published by American Sports Publishing Company, New York. Price \$.35

The Tennis Annual for 1925, which has just appeared, contains its full quota of championship records, national, sectional and state rankings, and information regarding champions of the past. There are also the schedules of the 1925 tournaments and rules, cases and decisions. A page is devoted to paddle tennis.

**TOURIST CAMPS.** By Rolland S. Wallis Bulletin 56 (Revised) Engineering Extension Department, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa

This is a 63-page pamphlet discussing all phases of tourist camp construction. It contains plans, illustrations and designs. Selection of the camp site, drainage, water supply, ownership, equipment, pumping systems, sewage disposal, lighting, cooking facilities, furniture, buildings, bathing and laundry facilities, refuse disposal, signboards, camp management, police protection, registration, service charges, sanitation, camp regulations, costs and publicity are all discussed. Various rules and regulations are given in the appendix.





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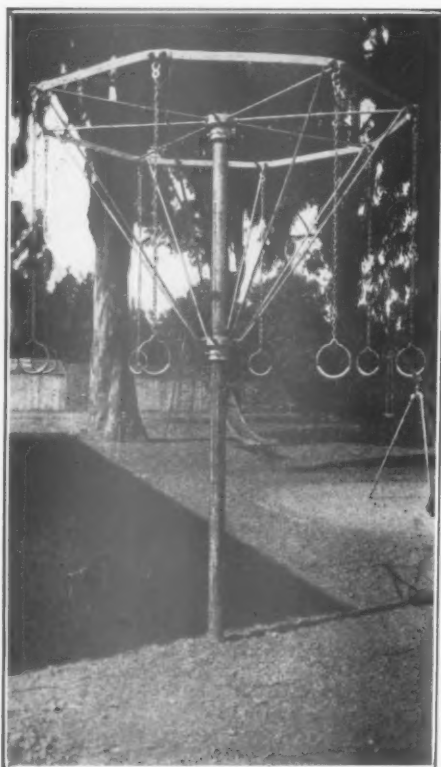
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**VACATION ACTIVITIES AND THE SCHOOL.** Published by the Lincoln School of Teachers College, New York City.

To show how the interest in the summer vacation may be interwoven with the school curriculum is the theme of this suggestive pamphlet telling of the experience of Lincoln School of Teachers College, New York.

"The long summer vacation characteristic of American schools offers a rich opportunity to extend the work of the school and to bring back into the school itself much that adds vital interest to its work. This becomes increasingly true as the subject matter of instruction is closely related to the real life experiences of children."

Not the least valuable part of the booklet is the bibliography including books which suggest things to do and how to do them, books on various phases of nature study; stories of adventure, travel, history; myths, legends and tales of chivalry; lives of interesting men and women, and a suggestive list of books for mothers.

**SOCIAL ASPECTS OF FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING.** By Benson Y. Landis. Bulletin No. 4. Published by University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Price, \$.25

During the past five or six years many live and powerful farmers' marketing associations have been formed in all parts of the country. And about one-seventh of the farmers of the nation have joined organizations of one type alone. To determine to what degree these co-operatives are developing educational, social and recreation activities and to what extent there is co-operation with social, educational and religious organizations a study has been carried on by the Rural Committee of the Department of Research and Education. The results have been brought together in this pamphlet which draws certain conclusions on the basis of the material secured. These are, in general, as follows:

The majority of co-operative marketing associations among farmers are organizations which are not pursuing

social objectives. Significant social activities and education in co-operative principles and methods are carried on by only a small proportion of local associations. In some cases the large regional associations have created informal or advisory local groups which engage in varied social activities. Federations develop with established local associations as foundations and thus in the beginning recognize varied social interests of members; only one federation, however, has promoted important social activities. Social, educational and religious organizations and their leaders have been on the whole unconcerned about the development of farmers' co-operative marketing associations.

It was suggested by those making the study that social aspects be emphasized to a far greater degree. "A start might be made by contributing money for the beautification of school grounds, for the purchase of new school equipment, for playground apparatus, for bringing in lecturers and entertainers; by giving regular support to public health and welfare work, such as that of a school or community nurse; also by supporting such existing institutions as meet the approval of a large majority of the members. It is recognized that a comprehensive social program cannot be financed by a local co-operative, but the co-operative may easily stimulate worthwhile enterprises."

**THE NEGRO AND HIS SONGS** by Odum and Johnson. Published by the University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Price, \$3.00

This volume, unique as an interpretation of the negro as he expresses himself in song, is presented simply as a part of the story of the negro. Other volumes will follow—another collection of songs brought more nearly up to date; a presentation of song and story centered around these studies; a series of efforts to portray objectively the story of the race progress in the United States in the last half dozen decades.

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his everyday social songs and his work songs, reproduced exactly as they are sung. Here are songs which should form a notable contribution to the study of literature, folk psychology and sociology. Interpretation and theory have been subordinated to analysis and accuracy of presentation. The result is a work which offers a wealth of material to the student of race and race relations.

**THE COMMON SENSE OF MUSIC.** By Sigmund Spaeth. Published by Boni and Liveright, New York. Price, \$2.00

In this book Mr. Spaeth proposes to dispel the mystery surrounding music and to give the layman the opportunity to discover for himself the fundamental simplicity of the art and the enjoyment it has to offer.

The author writes from the average reader's point of view. His thesis is that there is literally a sense of music common to everybody. He proves that so-called classical music is not the awesome thing many people seem to think it to be and that popular music may be used as a means to an end. The theme throughout is the building up through self-education in music of an appreciation of music which will mean a response to beauty and spiritual enrichment.

**STORIES OF THE WORLD'S HOLIDAYS.** By Grace Humphrey. Milton Bradley Company, Springfield, Mass. Price, \$1.75

Here is a book designed to tell children in simple, interesting language why the flags fly on certain days in many lands. The origin of the holidays and meaning and methods of observance are fully explained. Each of the nineteen chapters is devoted to a different holiday. The subjects include China's Feast of Lanterns, Ireland's St. Patrick's Day, St. Valentine's Day, Lincoln's Birthday, France's Bastille Day, Poland's National Holiday and many others.

**TYNDALE, A Drama,** by Parker Hord. Published by Century Company, New York. Price, \$.50

This play, written in honor of the 400th anniversary of William Tyndale's achievements in presenting to the world the New Testament in English, is not only historically correct, in spirit, in fact and in language, but the dramatic method is admirable. Humor relieves what might have proven too somber a theme.

Religious leaders will welcome the appearance of this play especially for use in anniversary services to be held on December 6th, 1925, which has been set aside as Universal Bible Sunday.

**THE BIRCH BARK ROLL OF WOODCRAFT.** By Ernest Thompson Seton. Woodcraft League of America, Inc., Northeastern Field Council, 110 West 34th Street, New York City. Price, \$1.25

The Woodcraft League of America, Inc., has recently combined its two manuals for Boys and Girls in one book called *The Birch Bark Roll of Woodcraft for Boys and Girls* from 4-94, written by Ernest Thompson Seton. It contains a description of Woodcraft, its aims, points on organization, tribe activities and games. One section is given to Things to Know and Do, giving facts on health, hiking, patriotism, various sign languages, weather and railway signals, blazes and signs, all phases of campcraft, information on wild plants, flowers, trees, birds, constellations, secrets of the trail and handcraft. Various degrees to be secured are described in the last chapters.

**BOY GUIDANCE,** by Father Kilian, O. M. Cap. Published by Benziger Brothers, New York. Price, \$2.00

Around the description of the purpose, program and activities of the Catholic Boys' Brigade, which forms the basis of this book, the author has gathered a fund of information about training for boy leadership, the characteristics of early adolescence, the building of character, the boy's play as training for life, the educational and social value of camping, community contacts and many other considerations which are important in work with boys.

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Part I—*Individual Athletic Activities*, including directions and scoring tables for athletic events to be used in schools, playgrounds and community centers, ages of from ten to eighteen years. Individual and group contests are included.

Part II—*Gymnastics*, including general directions for teachers in methods of teaching gymnastics, graded lessons for grade three through high school, and story plays for grades one and two.

Part III—*Folk and Singing Games*, presenting the rhythmic activities and singing games for the primary grades and the folk games to music for the elementary grades and high schools.

Part IV—*Plays and Games for Elementary and High School*, containing descriptions of games and play activities for grade one through high school. Suggestions are given for presenting the games, and a classification of the material according to school-room and playground use adds to its helpfulness.

Part V—*Health Education*, including plans for emphasizing and teaching health in the schools from the kindergarten through the high school. A special chapter on posture is included.

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covering a distinct phase in the course of study. Suggestive programs are included, particularly for rural schools, and directions are given for the utilization of pupil leadership, designed not only to conserve the teacher's time but to develop these much needed qualities of initiative and good sportsmanship among the pupils themselves.

**THE MAKE-IT-UP STORY BOOK.** By Cornelia Adams. Published by Robert M. McBride & Company, New York. Price, \$1.00

This book provides a delightful channel for stimulating the child's imagination and projecting him into the "Land of Make-Believe." Each of the five stories appearing in the book has been started; at an exciting point it is broken off, and it is left to the child to finish the tale. Blank pages are provided for this purpose and for illustrations which the child is urged to make.

**RELIGIOUS DRAMA, 1924.** Published by the Century Company. Price, \$2.00

The "best religious drama, selected by the Committee on Religious Drama of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America." Contains ten plays, classed as Biblical, fellowship and extra-Biblical plays of the individual spiritual life. Hundreds of manuscripts were read in the effort to collect only plays of genuine dramatic value worthy of church production.

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**THE HOMEMAKER.** By Mabel Louise Keech. Published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, London and Chicago.

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